A FARMER FRIENDLY HANDBOOK
FOR
GOVERNMENT OF HIMACHAL PRADESH
SCHEMES & PROGRAMMES IN 2014
1. QUALITY SEED MULTIPLICATION AND DISTRIBUTION:

Department owns 38 Seed Multiplication Farms where foundation seeds of Kharif and Rabi crops are produced. Annually about 3500 to 4000 quintals seed of cereals, pulses and vegetables are produced in these farms. Further about 90,000 quintals of certified seeds of various crops are distributed to the farmers in the state. At present 5 grading centres are in operation for various crops. Under this scheme, expenditure on seed multiplication farms, seed testing and certification, subsidy on cost of seeds and cost on demonstrations etc is incurred.

2. MANURE AND FERTILIZERS:

I) DISTRIBUTION OF FERTILIZERS:

The State Govt. has allowed cost subsidy on complex fertilizers NPK 12:32:16, NPK 10:26:26 and NPK 15:15:15 @ Rs.1000/-per MT. Apart from this cost subsidy @25% is also being provided on 100% water soluble complex fertilizers to the farmers (limited to Rs. 2500 per farmer). In order to ensure adequate supply of fertilizers, the Govt. has entrusted this responsibility to HIMFED/Cooperative Societies. The farmers are educated about balanced use of fertilizers and as per soil testing nutrient basis.
II) SOIL TESTING CENTRES:

Soil testing has great importance for raising agriculture production. The department is providing free soil testing facilities to the farmers. Department has 11 Soil Testing Laboratories besides four mobile soil testing labs to provide free soil testing facilities to the farmers. About 1,25,000 samples are analysed annually. Besides this Soil Health Cards are being provided to the farmers. About one lac farmers are being covered every year. Outlay proposed is to meet expenditure on these labs for testing of soil samples. Soil testing service has also being included under H.P. Govt. Public Service Act, 2011 in which the soil health cards are being made available to the farmers through online service within prescribed time limit.

3. PLANT PROTECTION:

The Department exercise vigil on pest situation. To overcome this, about 150 MT of pesticides through 991 sale centres are supplied to the farmers. Besides this, Pesticide Testing Laboratory at Shimla has been set up with a capacity of 150 to 250 samples per year.
One Bio Control Laboratory has been set up at Palampur where conservation pest situation augmentation, rearing and multiplication of bio-agents and training to extension staff and farmers are being done. Another Bio Control Laboratory has been set up at Mandi and will be made functional very soon.

This is a continued scheme and the provision is made for meeting the expenditure on transportation and subsidy on the cost of plant protection material. The plant protection material including equipments are supplied to the SCs / STs /IRDP families at 50% cost. The outlay proposed is to meet expenditure on subsidies.

4. COMMERCIAL CROPS:

Under diversification approach, major emphasis is being laid on the production of Off-season vegetables, quality vegetable seeds, Potato and Ginger besides Soybean, Oilseeds and Pulses.

a) Development of Seed Potato:

The Department owns 13 Potato Development Stations where foundation seed potato is produced. Due to “Seed Plot Technique” in the plains, the Potatoes of plains are causing tough competition in marketing of seed Potato from H.P. Therefore, a policy has been devised to diversify the area under Potato towards cash crop. Market
maximum potato as table and produce only that much seed potato which can easily be marketed outside the State.

b) Development of vegetables

Including farms:

Himachal Pradesh gained reputation for the cultivation of off-season vegetables and production of quality vegetable seeds. There is a great demand of off-season vegetables in the plains.

The ongoing programme i.e. cultivation of off-season vegetables and production of vegetable seeds is proposed to be strengthened and organized on an extensive scale during 12th Plan for providing higher income and employment.

The suitable areas in the State for the purpose of vegetable cultivation would be intensively surveyed and identified and the farmers in the newly identified areas would be encouraged to take up these programme, demonstration on vegetables cultivation are done for the small and marginal farmers in these areas, so that the farm income of these rural poor can be improved and country can be supplied with the vegetables in off-season. The cropping pattern shifts from cereals to vegetables would be specially monitored in all such areas as are being
brought under the culturable command area of the new irrigation schemes. Annually about 13.5 lakh tonne vegetables are produced and marketed within and outside the State.

c) Ginger Development:

For production of disease free ginger, the Department is providing training, demonstrations and quality seed. About 35,000 tonnes of green ginger is produced annually which is marketed within the State and at the neighbouring States.

5. QUALITY CONTROL:

Under this scheme, implementation of various acts on seeds, fertilizers and pesticides is ensured. Quality control functionaries have been notified. The Department has three fertilizer testing labs (Hamirpur, Sundernagar, Shimla), one state pesticides testing lab at Shimla, Biofertilizer and Biopesticide lab at Palampur and three seed testing labs (Solan, Palampur and Mandi). 2000 fertilizer samples, 300 pesticide and 1200 seed samples are being analysed annually.

6. AGRICULTURE MARKETING:

This is controlled in the State through H.P. Agricultural and Horticultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2005.
Under this Act, H.P. State Agricultural Marketing Board has been set-up. At present, 10 market committees are functioning. 52 markets have been made functional. Market information is being disseminated through different media i.e AIR Doordarshan print media and through Net to farmers. The work of development of marketing infrastructure is done out of the funds of APMCs. Information on daily market rates is also disseminated through AIR/DD.

Market rates of 39 commodities are also disseminated through agmarknet.nic.in.

7. HP CROP DIVERSIFICATION PROJECT (JICA ODA Loan Project):

To encourage crop diversification in Himachal Pradesh a project in collaboration with Japan International Cooperative agency (JICA) has been started since June, 2011. The project area comprises 5 districts Kangra, Mandi, Hamirpur, Bilaspur and Una. The project period is 7 years i.e. 2011 to March, 2018 and the total project cost is Rs. 321 Crores (Loan Rs. 266 crores and State share Rs. 55 Crores).

**Project Components:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Infrastructure Development (Rs. 130.21 crores)</th>
<th>Development of new Micro-Irrigation Systems</th>
<th>172 No’s</th>
<th>2816 ha. CCA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Improvement of Minor Irrigation Systems</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>896 ha. CCA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>210</td>
<td>3712 ha.CCA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2. | Farmers Support Program (Rs. 32.02 crores) | 1. Organisation of Farmers Groups.  
2. Promotion of Organic Farming.  
3. Vegetable Promotion Training.  
5. Post Harvest / Marketing.  
6. Collection Centres (23Nos.) |
|---|---|---|
| 3. | Institutional Development (Rs. 34.41 crores) | 1. Strengthening of Department of Agriculture, Setting up Project Management Units.  
2. Strengthening of Extension Service, function and training of staff.  
4. Setting up of MIS/GIS. |
| 4. | Other Costs (Rs. 124.36 crores) | Contingencies, Price Escalation, Consulting services, General Administration, Tax and Duties, Commitment Charges, Interest |

| Grand Total | JICA ODA Loan : Rs. 266.00 crores (90% Grant and 10% Loan)  
State Share : Rs.55.00 crores  
Rate of Interest on Loan : 1.4%  
Loan repayment period: 30 Years. |
8. **SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION:**

Due to topographical factors, the soil is subject to splash, sheet and Gully erosion resulting into degradation of the soil.

Besides this, there is biotic pressure on the lands to the curb this menace particularly on the agricultural lands. The Department of Agriculture, H.P. is executing two Soil and Water Conservation schemes under State Sector Scheme. The schemes are:

i. Soil Conservation Works

ii. Water conservation and development

9. **AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION:**

Under this, GIA is given to Agriculture University for Teaching, Research & Extension. Emphasis is being laid on location specific research for adoption of the same by the farming community of the State.
10. Dr.Y.S.PARMAR KISAN SAWROZGAR YOJNA:
In order to achieve faster and more inclusive growth in Agriculture sector Government of Himachal Pradesh has started “Dr. Y. S. Parmar Kisan Swarozgar Yojna” (Poly House and Micro Irrigation). Project components include creation of need based infrastructure and are expected to fulfill objectives of high productivity, quality, safeguard against adverse weather, efficient input use etc.

PROJECT COMPONENTS (2014-15 TO 2017-18)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No.</th>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Nos.</th>
<th>Covered area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Poly Houses Framed structure</td>
<td>4700 Nos.</td>
<td>835350 Sqm..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Micro Irrigation (Sprinkler/Drip System Poly Houses as per feasibility)</td>
<td>2150 Nos.</td>
<td>820050 Sqm..</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Low lift, medium lifts &amp; pumping machinery 1 HP with poly houses as per feasibility.</td>
<td>870 Nos.</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Total cost of civil works</td>
<td>Rs.10178.10 lakh.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Farmers Sensitization, contingency and Cost Escalation.</td>
<td>Rs.940.45 lakh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Project Cost.</td>
<td>Rs.11118.55 lakh.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Project components include construction of location specific models of poly houses with micro irrigation facility. For this, 85% project assistance shall be provided to the farmers. Also for creation for water sources individually and collectively by a group of farmers (Low/medium lift, pumping machinery), 50% subsidy shall be provided.

11. BIOGAS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES (100%):

This is 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which subsidy @ Rs.7000 per biogas plant of one cubic meter and Rs.11,000/- per biogas plant of two & above cubic meter capacity is being provided.

12. MUKHYAMANTRI ADARSH KRISHI GAON YOJNA:

The Government of Himachal Pradesh has started “Mukhyamantri Adarsh krishi Gaon Yojna” since 2013-14 under which one panchayat in each constituency has been selected to take up agriculture development activities. In each panchayat Rs. 10.00 lac is being spent to create agriculture infrastructure besides others developmental activities, to be supported through ongoing programmes.
13. DIVERSIFICATION OF AGRICULTURE THROUGH MICRO IRRIGATION:

1. 80% assistance for micro-irrigation Sprinkler system.
2. 50% assistance for construction of farm tank.
3. 50% assistance for construction of shallows wells, shallow and deep bore wells.
4. 50% assistance for lifting water with electric motor of 3 HP and 7.5 HP and above i.e. low and medium lifts.
5. 50% assistance for pumping machinery.