

FORM C
(see rule 4(1))

Supply and / or rejection of information to the applicant

2 PAD

From :
DAG/ RTI CELL/ 322 /2013
OFFICE OF DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE,
KRUSHIBHAVAN, SECTORE-10 A,
GANDHINAGAR
DATE : 27/02/2013

To,
Shri Nishank,
A-124/6, First Floor,
Katwaria Sarial,
New Delhi - 110029.

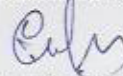
Sir,

This is with reference to your application dated 23/01/2013 requesting for supply of information / documents under the Right to Information Act-2005.

Required information/ documents sought by you in your above application are attached herewith.

If you are aggrieved by the above decision, you may prefer an appeal to Shri H. K. VADHAVANIA, Appellant Authority and Joint Director (Seed), Office of Director of Agriculture, Krushi Bhavan Gandhinagar within thirty days from the date of receipt of the decision

Your faithfully,



(M.R. PARMAR)

Public Information Officer,
Office of Director of Agriculture,
Krushi Bhavan , Gandhinagar

Mr. Nishank

Id No. 76, Dt:07/02/2013.

- 1. What Scheme have been utilized by the state Govt. for promoting organic farming, year-wise, in the past 5 Years.**

For promoting organic farming in the state, Government of Gujarat implemented Sanjivani(Organic farming) scheme since Year:2010-11. This scheme is a three years project based scheme.

- 2. Please provide scheme wise details, budget allocated and spent, area covered in terms of acres, number of farmers in the past five years for promoting of organic farming.**

Under Sanjivani scheme total 10.00 crores budget allocated for a three years from 2010-11 to 2012-13 for 5000.00 hectores area covered under this scheme are as under.

Sr.No.	Year	Budget allocation (Rs. In Crore)
1	2010-11	4.00
2	2011-12	3.00
3	2012-13	3.00

Total 2463 farmers and 5392.27 herctors were covered under the scheme in past five years.

- 3. Please provide details of components included in each scheme and budget per unit against each component.**

For input support: Rs.10,000/- per hectores and for certification assistance: Rs.10,000/- per hector

The assistance is divided in three years.(i.e. Rs.8000/- for first year, Rs.6000/- for second year and Rs.6000/- for third year.)

- 4. Please provide any progress, review or monitoring reports which capture the impact of the projects.**

Mid term evaluation of this scheme are carried out by National center of Organic farming (NCOF), Gaziabad. Copy of the report are attached herewith.



राष्ट्रीय जैविक खेती केन्द्र
National Centre of Organic Farming

201 B Wing CGO Complex-II
Kamla Nehru Nagar, Gandhinagar - 201 002
Date 21.11.2011

No. 10-3/2009-NCOF/

To
The Managing Director
Agricultural Finance Corporation Ltd
Dhanraj Mahal, First Floor
CSM Marg,
Mumbai - 400 001

Sub:- Evaluation report of Organic adoption-cum-certification programme in Gujarat State

Sir,
In reference to your letter No AFC-AKG-MD: 2011 Dated 21.10.2011 and comprehensive discussions on the issue earlier, kindly find enclosed herewith a comprehensive evaluation report of Organic adoption-cum-certification programme in five Districts of Gujarat State, being implemented by your organization. The evaluation was undertaken as per the standard methodology developed by the NCOF and under the mandate of supporting organic initiatives of the State Governments.

Submitted for information and necessary action.

Yours faithfully

(A.K. Yadav)
Director

Copy to the
Director of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, Gujarat State Krishi Bhavan,
Sector 10/A, Gandhi Nagar, Government of Gujarat Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat, in
reference to their letter No. IQ/Furti-1/34776/2011 Dated 18.11.2011 addressed to
AFCL for information and necessary action.

Evaluation Report of National Horticulture Mission Project on Organic Farming-Adoption and Certification Project in Gujarat

Name of the Project	: Organic Adoption and Certification Project
Sponsoring Agency	: Department of Agriculture, Gujarat
Implementing Agency	: Agriculture Finance Corporation Ltd., Mumbai

Introduction

Department of Agriculture, Gujarat, sanctioned an Organic Adoption-cum-Certification project to Agriculture Finance Corporation Ltd. (AFCL), Mumbai. The project is being implemented by M/S International Traceability Systems Ltd., New Delhi, under the supervision of AFCL.

Implementation of the project was evaluated by Dr. A.K. Shukla, Junior Scientific Officer, Regional Centre of Organic Farming, Nagpur, Maharashtra during 12.10.2011 to 17.10.2011.

Status of Organic Project

The said Project in Gujarat is being jointly implemented by AFCL, Mumbai and International Traceability Systems Ltd, New Delhi.

- Date of starting of project - 4th October 2010
- Date of completion - 3rd October 2013
- Project is being implemented in 5 districts of Gujarat
- District wise details of total area sanctioned, total area covered, number of clusters, number of farmers etc are given in Annexure I.
- An area of 5000 ha was allocated to the agency against which 5071 ha area was covered.
- For evaluation purpose 5 districts namely Ahmedabad, Amreli, Dahod, Godhra and Surendranagar were considered and physically inspected.
- These 5 districts, under evaluation, were found to be further sub-divided into 95 ICS-clusters, spread over 50 villages, belonging to 7 Talukas. Total area registered under these districts was 5070.92 ha.
- Total number of farmers registered under the project in 5 districts under evaluation was 2322.

Evaluation Methodology

For evaluation of implementation of the project Dr. A.K. Shukla, Junior Scientific Officer, Regional Centre of Organic Farming, Nagpur was deputed and the officer visited selected ICS groups in these districts. Following checks were exercised:-

1. Thorough document audit of the entire project at the state office of the implementing agency.
2. Unannounced selection of villages, clusters and farmers out of approved farmers' list (AFL)
3. Interviews with District-in-charge/ Assistant District Incharge/ Cluster-in-charges and farmers
4. Inspections of farmers' diaries/ farm and field history sheet and remarks by Certification Agency in farmers' diaries
5. Inspection of on-farm input production facilities
6. Inspection of stored agricultural inputs with farmers
7. Inspection of fields with reference to crops grown and on-farm advisory
8. Status of phyto-sanitary aspects
9. Inspections of plant protection measures taken
10. Border crops and buffer zone requirements
11. Major and minor non-compliances as observed by CA and their records in farmers' diaries
12. Sale and purchase details of inputs and produces / seeds by farmers
13. Capacity building of ICS staff and farmers
14. Any other relevant farm aspects related to farm and farmers

To maintain the uniformity in evaluation an evaluation checklist was prepared and the evaluation has been carried out based on the reports filled in these checklists. (Copy of checklist enclosed at Annexure II)

Observations of evaluation

In the first spell of evaluation various clusters in the districts of Ahmedabad, Amreli, Dahod, Godhara and Surendranagar were inspected. The overall observations made during this evaluation are as under:-

A. Operational structure

The implementing agency has well knit operational structure manned by competent personals both in organic management and implementation protocols and certification requirements. Detailed operational structure with name of personals involved is given at Annexure III.

B. Internal Control System

Internal control system (ICS) is in place as per following ICS implementation structure:-

Principle Administrator
Principle Advisor
Project Coordinator
Project Officer
District-in-charge

- Mr PM Asari
- Dr MS Basul
- Dr NB Bagwan
- Dr G.N. Thorat
- At District Level (1 in each District)

Asstt. District-in-charge
Cluster-in-charge

- At District Level-in few districts
- At Cluster Level

District wise list of staff associated with the project is enclosed at Annexure IV

➤ **Competence of ICS staff**

Personals involved in ICS maintenance right from project administrator to Cluster In-charges are highly qualified and competent with adequate knowledge on organic certification systems, standards, dos and don'ts, documentation and field management.

Competence of ICS staff in pest management and yield estimation needs to be buildup

➤ **Capacity building of ICS staff and farmers**

Screening of records maintained by the implementing agency and through personal interaction with the field staff, it emerged clearly that implementing agency is arranging regular training programmes for ICS staff (at least twice a month) on ICS management and Organic Farming adoption at State/ District level. Cluster level and field level training programmes are being organized for farmers at clusters. Implementing agency is also organizing monthly demonstrations and club meetings for farmers capacity building.

➤ **Farm Operation Advisory**

District-in-charge and respective cluster-in-charges are frequently visiting farmers' fields and necessary farm operation advice is being offered by DI and CIs. DIs and Cs are backed by expert services of large numbers of experts available with ITS.

➤ **Problem Redressal Mechanism**

Any specific farm operation issue is being redressed by respective cluster-in-charge and if, CI fails to redress any specific issue, he refers the same to DI for technical support over phone, which is further communicated to their state headquarter and advisory is provided on-line/ through phone within 12-24 hours.

➤ **Competence of farmers on organic standards and certification procedure**

Majority of the farmers interviewed/ verified were aware about organic standards and certification system requirements in general but were not aware about ICS structure, collective input procurement, collective marketing and storage etc. Further training and capacity building is needed.

➤ **ICS documentation**

All ICS documents such as application forms, farmer agreements, field history sheets, ICS maps, individual field maps, risk assessment forms,

copy of standards, copy of all ICS documents in local language to farmers were found to be maintained as per prescribed norms

➤ **Farm diaries**

In most of the cases Cluster incharges were found to be filling farm diaries. In some cases farmers were also found to have recorded some operations and observations. Most of the diaries, checked were up-to-date and properly filled. Farmers were aware about the operation details and time and their oral version was matching with the entries in diaries.

C. Selection of Farmers in a Cluster

It has been observed that selection of farmers in a cluster was totally voluntary and the cluster of farmers have been formed keeping in view, the requirements of ICS. Selected fields in a cluster are located within 20-30 KM distance. The selection of farmers and formation of clusters meet the NPOP requirement of similar farming system and geographical proximity.

As majority of the farmers were having 2-6 cattle, therefore adequate availability of dung and urine was available with each farmer.

D. Adoption Strategy and Inputs Management

Adoption of organic farming in the evaluated clusters is by the way of motivation of farmers towards organic farming and its benefits. The implementing agency is providing two types of organic inputs viz Biomix-I and Biomix-V, these products are approved by Indocert Certification Agency for their use in organic farming. These inputs are being provided free of cost to the registered farmers by the implementing agency. Cluster-in-charge places demand of these inputs to DI as per season and requirement and the same is being arranged for farmers on-farm at the cost of implementing agency. Majority of the farmers were found to have their own on-farm input production system for FYM, Compost, Vermicompost etc. Most of the farmers visited were also having infrastructure and facilities for liquid manure preparation and botanical pesticide preparation facilities. Inputs being provided by the implementing agency are applied for seed treatment, basal manuring, top dressing and as a spray, as per its requirement and stages of crops.

E. Phyto-sanitary issues in field management

All fields inspected were clean and free from any contamination. No traces of human excreta, raw cattle dung or plastic contamination was found.

F. Risk Management and Buffer zones

Adequate measures were found to be in place for assessment of risks. Majority of the fields were having either satisfactory isolation or was having adequate buffer zone.

Contamination control is managed through raised bunds. In some cases live hedges were also found as contamination control measures. But heavy rains in sloppy areas may still have some risk which needs to be addressed in days to come.

While seeds used in the programme was mainly from the farmers' own produce, but in some cases it was purchased from market. Due care is needed in future to ensure that either the seed is of organic origin or if not available then conventionally grown but without chemical treatment. All market purchased seeds need to be thoroughly verified as it may pose a serious risk from second year onwards.

G. Internal Inspections of Clusters under ICS

ICS of implementing agency has so far recorded 02 internal inspections, one in each season (Rabi 2010-11 and Kharif 2011). Based upon the records and daily work diaries of ICS staff it emerged that regular non-recorded internal inspection are also being undertaken. The frequency of visit to farmers by cluster in-charge was nearly two visits per month. So far in any internal inspections no non-compliances have been recorded.

H. Hiring of External Certification agency

The implementing agency has hired the services of M/S Control Union Certification for a ranging external inspection and certification and has already submitted necessary documents for registration.

I. External Inspections

So far no external inspection has been done by any accredited certification agency.

J. Certification Status

In the absence of external inspector so far no certification status has been granted

K. Major and Minor non-compliances observed by the Certification Agency

Not applicable as no external inspection has been done

L. Marketing Strategy and Assistance in Marketing

As is evident from the records and as per the details provided the programme is just going to complete one year and no certification status has been conferred. there was no apparent marketing strategy in place

Most of the sales are at market prices and farmers are not receiving any premium.

Implementing agencies has clarified that as all these clusters have yet to attain the status of certified organic, it is difficult to link the groups with market chain as market retailers need certified produce.

M. Farmers' Feedback

During evaluation process, on an average 04-06 numbers of farmers were interviewed in each district with various FAQs about the entire programme. Majority of the farmers were found to be satisfied with the assistance being provided by the ICS staff of implementing agency and organic inputs being provided by them. However, most of the farmers were of opinion that due to loss

7/5/12

in gross crop yield during initial years of adoption of organic farming, there should be a uniform marketing policy for their produces with price premiums or Government must support for conversion losses.

District-wise list of the registered farmers which were physically verified and interviewed is given at Annexure V.

Conclusion

After the evaluation of adoption and certification of organic farming in various clusters of districts inspected overall comments and recommendations are as follows:-

1. The programme is being implemented properly and efforts made by the implementing agency for adoption and certification of organic farming in Gujarat scores 7 - 8.5 on a scale of 10 for this aspect.
2. ICS structure is well in place and its implementation strategy is Good
3. Although one year has passed since the start of the project, but so-far no external inspection has been done by the external certification agency and no certification status has been granted. This is a serious issue and needs to be addressed on priority.
4. Inputs being provided by the implementing agency are useful for farmers and farmers are by and large happy with the assistance provided, but more is needed in the form of support for creation of on-farm inputs production infrastructure for their future needs and benefits
5. Competence of cluster-in-charge is although satisfactory and farmers have been provided with all possible technical and certification assistance but there is need to train Cluster I/C and farmers on plant protection issues and yield estimation strategy.
6. Lack of marketing strategy is the major issue to be redressed. The existing NHM project is likely to close in October 2013, immediate efforts are needed to build the capacity of farmers for carrying forward the ICS and certification beyond this date. Long term sustainability and self dependency can be ensured only when the marketing channels are developed and farmers are assured of profitable returns. Therefore development of marketing linkages be given top priority in the second and third year.
7. Proper follow up strategy for continuation for farmers group as organic may be chalked out as the said project is time bound and the closure of the project, farmers may or may not continue the adoption as well as certification of their fields

Strength

23/27

Expertise available with International Traceability Systems Ltd being the largest professional ICS implementing agency in the field of certification, ICS management and organic package of practices is the biggest strength. Selection of farmers with adequate cattle, organization of monthly demonstrations on organic farming practices, club meetings and regular field staff trainings are also a strong implementation point.

Weakness

Lack of marketing strategy and no external inspection in first 12 months time are two **major weaknesses**. Scattered fields over **large area** can pose risk in management at later stages requiring higher surveillance and additional contamination control measures.

Overall rating

The implementation of organic adoption and certification programme in Gujarat is by and large **VERY GOOD**.