

National Centre of Organic Farming
Department of Agriculture and Cooperation,
Ministry of Agriculture, Govt of India

Details of approved components being implemented by National and Regional Centers of Organic Farming, through various State Agricultural University, ICAR and various other Government and Non-Government Agencies (NGOs) are as follows:

S.No.	Main Services	Standards
1	Financial support to input production units for setting up of Fruit and Vegetable market waste compost (FVMWC) units and Biofertilizer/ Biopesticide (BF) units	Financial assistance is being provided as credit linked back ended subsidy a. 33% of TFO or Rs 60 lakh whichever is less for FVMWC and b. 25% of TFO or Rs 40 lakh whichever is less for BF
2	Human resource development through trainings	a. Certificate Course on Organic Farming for Rural youth having Degree/Diploma in Agriculture (30 days) b. Training/Refresher course for analysts on quality analysis protocols of Biofertilisers and organic fertilizers (10 days) c. Trainers training on various subjects i.e (i) Fertiliser Control Order (FCO), (ii) Certification system of organic farming (iii) Organic Management, (iv) Production & Quality Control of organic inputs & other related aspects (05 days) and d. Training for Field Functionaries/ Extension Officers on organic Farming management & cultivation practices (02 days)
3	Quality control of organic and biological inputs	a. Nodal quality analysis laboratory for inputs under FCO b. Development of standards and quality analysis protocols for new inputs c. Maintenance and supply of biofertilizer mother culture strains to industry
4	Capacity building for biological soil health assessment	Through systematic soil analysis for assessment of soil health in the country in different regions. To be carried out by NCOF/RCOF/SAUs and ICAR Institutions
5	Encourage and Support Research, studies and/or surveys etc on organic package of practices, inputs and management protocols	To develop effective and productive package of practices for different crops To be carried out by NCOF/RCOF/SAUs and ICAR institutions
6	Publication of Newsletters, Training manuals and literature	a. Quarterly Organic Farming Newsletter b. Half yearly Biofertilizer Newsletter c. Uniform training and technology dissemination literature
7	Capacity building for low cost alternative certification-PGS	Setting up of alternative farmer group centric certification system for organic products with institutional structure
8	Awareness creation, market development and Publicity	Through seminars/ conferences/ workshops/exhibitions and publicity through print and electronic media

Scheme - Capital Investment Subsidy scheme (CISS) for setting up of organic inputs production

a. Fruit and Vegetable market waste/agro-waste compost units –

Financial Assistance - 33% of Total Financial Outlay (TFO) or Rs. 60.00 lakh whichever is less for 100 Ton Per Day (TPD).

Eligible agencies–Municipalities, APMCs, Public sector/Private sector companies, fertilizer companies or any individual entrepreneurs.

b. Bio-fertilizer / Bio-pesticide production units

Financial Assistance – 25% of TFO or Rs.40.00 lakh whichever is less for setting up of 200 Ton Per Annum (TPA) capacity production unit.

Eligible agencies – Public sector/ Cooperative/ private sector companies, small agencies/NGOs and Individual entrepreneurs

Note; Preference will be given for setting up of state-of the – art sterile, fully automatic carrier based or liquid inoculants production units.

Release of funds –Financial assistance will be provided as credit linked back ended subsidy through any commercial/scheduled bank with NABARD in two instalments through any commercial/scheduled bank through NABARD. On demand from NABARD and submission of detailed state-wise pending claims along with statement of disbursement / utilization of funds released, sufficient funds shall be placed at the disposal of the NABARD. NABARD shall ensure adequate publicity of the scheme among financing banks and ensure timely disbursement of subsidy. In case of Municipalities, DAC can directly release the funds on the recommendation of the concerned State PSMC.

Scheme - Development and implementation of quality control regime and technical support for organic and biological inputs

Implementing Agency: NCOF/RCOFs.

Development and implementation of quality control regime and technical support for organic and biological inputs will be carried out in the following manner:

(a) Quality Control Analysis of Bio-fertilizer and Organic Fertilizers

As NCOF and six RCOFs have been notified as authorized quality analysis laboratories for organic fertilizers and Bio-fertilizer under FCO, adequate capacity will be created for analysis of bio-fertilizers and organic fertilizers based on requirement.

(b) Development of quality control regime for other organic inputs

Besides four bio-fertilizers viz: Rhizobium, Azotobacter, Azospirillum and PSB and two organic fertilizers: City Waste Compost and Vermi-compost, there are large numbers of organic inputs being produced and promoted (such as various other types of composts, de-oiled cakes, poultry manures, concentrated manures, seaweed extracts, other plant/herbal extracts etc).

Necessary quality standards and testing protocols will be developed after determining the agronomic and bio-efficacy potential of such products for bringing them under some form of formal quality control mechanism. The work will be taken up by NCOF/RCOFs in project mode.

(c) Development, maintenance and supply of authenticated strains of Microorganisms

NCOF and RCOFs are the main source of mother culture for production of different microbial inoculants. They account for nearly 80% of the total requirement of such strains in the country. This activity will be

strengthened with addition of screening and regular bio-efficacy testing of such strains developed and released by research institutes for recommending and supplying region specific/ location-specific strains. A national repository of such microbial strains at NCOF will be developed and maintained.

Scheme - Human resource development through trainings

Implementing Agency: National /Regional Centre of Organic Farming (NCOF/ RCOFs) To development Human resource decided to organise following trainings.

(a) Certificate Course on organic farming Objectives;

- (i) To create first generation organic agriculture extension workers and field workers.
- (ii) To develop rural trainers on organic management practices with special focus on cropping system management, nutrient management and plant protection.
- (iii) To develop rural professionals for organic certification facilitation and internal control system management.
- (iv) To empower rural youth with skill and knowledge on national and international certification systems and their implementation requirements
- (v) To impart skills required for conflict resolutions, if any, during certification and inspection, input management, documentation, post harvest processing market access.

Programme Duration: 30 days duration residential training course.

No of Participants: 30 No. of participants in each course.

Eligibility for participation

The course will be open for rural youth having Degree/Diploma in Agriculture. SAUs/Educational institutes can also sponsor their undergraduate students for such courses.

Course content

It will consist of theory lecture, practical and demonstrations / field visits

- Principles of organic farming,
- Organic farming an integrated approach
- Conversion to organic with soil health management
- Cropping system management, nutrient management and pest management
- On-farm input generation and resource management
- System of certification and inspection
- National and International standards and their applicability
- Role and responsibilities of certification and inspection agencies & service provider
- General provision for inspection and certification
- Grower group certification system and internal control system management.
- Regulation on conflict of interest
- Documentation of various records
- PGS – an alternative certification system
- Requirements and operation of PGS in farmer groups
- Traceability in different certification system and its importance

Fund provision: Rs.2,34,500/- per course

(b) Refresher Training course for analysts Objective

To develop skill and confidence among the analysts and laboratory technicians working with Central/State Govt quality control laboratories under FCO, to train in protocols for quality analysis of organic fertilizers and bio-fertilizers covered under FCO.

Programme Duration: 10 days duration residential training course.

No of Participants: 20 No of participants in each course,

Eligibility for Participation:

Analyst/ technical officers of Central/ State Govt. associated with fertilizer/Biofertilizer/ Organic Fertilizer testing laboratories under FCO and implementation of Fertilizer Control Order.

Course content

- (i) Organic and biological inputs in soil health and nutrient management
- (ii) Legal aspects of Organic fertilizers and bio-fertilizers.
- (iii) Organic farming and on-farm resource management
- (iv) Organic and Bio-fertilizers under FCO
- (v) Specifications, standards and other legal issues
- (vi) Testing protocols for various parameters of Organic and Bio fertilizers
- (vii) Practical classes on analysis protocols

Fund provision : Rs.1,08,000/- per course

(c) Trainers trainings Objectives;

To update the knowledge and skills in sample collection/ handling requirement FCO and to create a cadre of organic agriculture trainers on various aspects of Organic farming, Certification and Internal control system management and production and Quality control of organic inputs (Bio-fertilizers and Organic Fertilizers), following five days customized trainers training courses has decided to be organized for.

- _ Fertilizer inspectors on FCO,
- _ Senior level extension officers/ KVK trainers on Certification and Internal control system management.
- _ Technical staff of production and Quality control of organic inputs (Bio-fertilizers and Organic Fertilizers).

Programme Duration: 5 days duration residential training course.

No. of Participants: 20 No of participants in each customized trainers training course.

(i) Training course for Fertilizer Inspectors on FCO**Eligibility for Participation**

This Course exclusively designed for the Fertilizer inspectors / officers associated with the implementation of FCO in the Central/ State Governments.

Note; Separate customized course may be organize as per requirement separately for the personnel's of NGOs/private agencies on prior approval of DAC.

Course content

As this course shall be custom designed on one or two specific aspects only, the course contents will be different as follows:

- Organic and biological inputs in organic farming
- Organic and Bio-fertilizers under FCO
- Specifications, standards and other legal issues

- Sampling procedure
- Reporting formats and legal issues
- Practical classes

(ii). Training course for senior level extension officers/ KVK trainers on Certification and Internal control system management.

Eligibility for Participation

This Course exclusively designed for the senior level extension officers of State Governments, KVKs trainers, Certification agency personals and ICS managers.

Course Contents

- Organic farming- Principals and practices
- National and International Certification systems
- Documentation and field inspections
- Grower group certification and internal control system management
- Risk assessment and conflict resolution
- Cropping system management
- Conversion to organic and soil fertility build up
- Nutrient management
- Pest management
- Post harvest handling and storage
- Dos and Don'ts and input approvals

(iii). Training on Organic Management and production / Quality control of organic inputs (Bio-fertilizers and Organic Fertilizers) for Technical staff.

Eligibility for Participation

This Course exclusively designed for the Technical staff of production and quality control of organic inputs etc. private quality control laboratories/ Central/State Govt./ICAR/SAUs.

Course content

- Organic farming Principals and practice
- Inputs under organic management and importance of organic inputs in soil health management
- Bio-fertilizers
- Organic fertilizers
- Bio-control agents
- Integration of different inputs for best productivity
- On-farm and off-farm input based nutrient management approach
- Feeding the soil
- Protection of life forms in soil
- Biomass conversion and recycling of resources
- Habitat management and Diversity in plant protection
- Pest management in organic farming
- Some innovative ITKs

Fund provision: Rs.63,500/- per course

d. Training of Field Functionaries / Extension Officers on Organic Farming Objectives

As organic farming is primarily an on-farm management system, two days trainings are proposed to disseminate appropriate management protocols to field functionaries and extension officers, working in both Government and NGOs sector.

Programme and duration : 2 days duration residential training course.

No. of Participants: 20 Nos. of participants in each course.

Eligibility for Participation: Participants will be Extension and field workers of Central and State Governments sector and private/NGO sectors. Educational Institutions can also sponsor their students for such course on basics of organic farming.

Course content

- Organic farming Principals and practices
- Organic farming an integrated approach
- On-farm and off-farm input based nutrient and pest management approach
- Certification systems in organic farming
- ITKs and strategies for quick conversion and high productivity

Fund provision: Rs.21,000/- per course

e) International Trainers' training/ cooperation and liaison with international bodies

This being an exclusively new field with practically little expertise in the country, training of officers from DAC, NCOF, State agencies (involved with organic agriculture implementation programme), certification agencies and scientists from ICAR and SAUs (working for development of organic package of practices since last 3 years) have been considered to give an international exposure. This also includes the need based visit of foreign experts to India and Indian executive officers/technical experts to different countries to create awareness about Indian organic produce, attend seminar/conferences, participate in exhibitions and develop liaison with international bodies on organic agriculture. Visit by select group of officers from DAC and NCOF to Bio-Fach, Nuremberg and other such events, can also be useful in learning international trends in organic agriculture.

Scheme - Capacity building for biological soil health assessment and organic nutrient resource mapping

Implementing Agency: NCOF/ RCOFs in collaboration with ICAR or SAUs.

Deteriorating soil health is a matter of concern in many areas of the country. So far no efforts have been made to assess the soil health from microbiological and biological activities point of view. Also there is need to map organic nutrient resources and identify constraints/strategies for their effective utilization. It is decided to initiate preliminary survey and studies under NPOF in project mode by employing Research fellows through grant of fellowships of 2-3 years duration.

Pattern of Assistance

Assistance will be available mostly in the form of employing Research fellows through grant of fellowships of 2-3 years duration. Assistance will be limited to manpower cost and contingencies. Purchase of equipments and permanent assets will not be allowed.

Scheme - Encourage and Support Research, studies and/or surveys etc on organic package of practices, inputs and management protocols

Implementing Agencies: NCOF/RCOFs/ ICAR/SAUs

To give organic farming a firm direction and to ensure sustained optimum productivity under organic management it is decided to give priority for collection, documentation, standardization and validation of successful indigenous practices of practicing organic farmers, development of on-farm resource based package of practices for different farming systems, development of location specific technology for nutrient management, pest management, validation of soil enrichment and plant protection formulations developed by practicing organic farmers and other agencies, evaluation and standardization of organic and biological inputs & development of processing technology on the recommendation of Screening Committee duly constituted by the Director NCOF.

Pattern of Assistance

Assistance will be available mostly in the form of Project Associates/ Ph.D. scholarships/fellowships for a period of two to four years. Assistance will be limited to manpower cost and contingencies. Purchase of equipments and permanent assets will not be allowed.

Scheme - Capacity building for low cost alternative certification-PGS

Implementing Agencies: NCOF/RCOFs

To develop a framework of alternative low-cost farmer group centric certification system such as PGS, DAC/NCOF will chalk out appropriate strategies. Major initiatives to be launched under the component include, capacity building of PGS through policy implementation, data management and surveillance support. NCOF will be the nodal implementing agency.

Other State Govt and Private/ NGO agencies can also be made partner organizations in implementation process without any financial implication to NPOF. A comprehensive strategy will also be chalked out by NCOF to undertake residue testing of PGS samples at National level. Initially services of existing Central/State Govt residue testing laboratories will be availed for such analysis work on competitive bidding basis.

Scheme - New Initiatives, Market Development, Awareness Creation and Publicity and evaluation

- a. Development of web-portals, web connectivity for data storage, market facilitation and information sharing etc
- b. Special surveys to study the consumer's preference, market potential for various commodities, market demand & market intelligence studies.
- c. International/ National/ Regional/ State level Seminars, exhibitions, trade fairs etc.
- d. Development of Radio/TV programmes, video films, CDs, on various aspects of organic farming and success stories.
- e. Publication of booklets, pamphlets, training material, package of practices, books on technology packages, success stories, conference/ seminar proceedings etc
- f. Advertisement and publicity
- g. New Innovative component not covered above, besides survey and evaluation through independent evaluators.

Implementing Agency:

(i) Item mentioned at (a)&(b) of the component, Central / State Govt. Depts. or agencies/ICAR/SAUs/Universities/ S&T Institutions.

(ii) Item mentioned at (c) to (g) of the component exclusively will be implemented by NCOF / RCOFs/ Central/ State Govt. Dept. ICAR/ SAUs.

Financial assistance: Financial assistance will be provided on the recommendations of Screening Committee duly constituted by the Director NCOF, in two instalments except seminars / conferences through NCOF. 2nd instalment will be released after submission of utilization certificate with technical/ physical/financial progress report and monitoring thereof by the technical expert team and found satisfactory performance/progress duly certified by the Director NCOF.

DAC will decide on supporting such initiatives on case to case basis for following activities leading to market development awareness creation, new initiatives and publicity through print and electronic media.

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