

TOR for Rapid Assessment of Suvarna Bhoomi Yojane

I. The context

Suvarna Bhoomi Yojane (SBY) was introduced in the year 2011-12 as a special scheme for revitalizing the lives of 10 lakh small and marginal farmer households including two lakh families from the Schedule Castes and one lakh from the Scheduled Tribes. Under this Scheme small and marginal farmers having only dry land will be given a financial assistance of Rs.10,000/- in two installments to support dry farming in two acres through scheduled banks or co-operative societies. The assistance is intended mainly for switching over from low value crops to high value crops such as pulses, oil seeds, commercial crops-cotton, horticulture plantations crops, sericulture and also for taking up organic farming. The scheme covers all the districts in the state. Expenditure under the scheme was Rs. 15809.06 lakh 2011-12 and Rs. 8079.40 lakh in 2012-13. This is a major but a budding scheme of significance which is expected to be expanded further in the forthcoming years. Horticulture Department intends to gain a deep insight into the operation and usefulness of the scheme in promoting horticulture and improving the livelihoods of small and marginal farmers.

II. Key objectives of the scheme

1. To support the farmers' transition from low value traditional crops to high value horticulture crops.
2. To increase the area and production of Horticulture crops, and
3. To encourage sustainable farm management practices.

III. Scope of the evaluation study

SBY is implemented all over the state of Karnataka. It is the first ever scheme of the Horticulture Department that directly transfers cash to the savings bank account of the beneficiaries thus offering complete freedom to the beneficiaries with regard to the crop types and investment options according to the individual needs. It is also expected to sharply cut down on the delays and fund leakages. It can be considered as a forerunner to the direct benefit transfer that is being contemplated by different governments. Since SBY takes a

totally approach, considerable practical difficulties are by different stakeholders and it is vital to sort them out for achieving effective results.

IV. Terms of Reference:

The Terms of Reference (ToR) for this study are:

1. To assess the efficiency of SBY compared to traditional forms of government support to small and marginal farmers generally and to the weaker sections particularly.
2. To assess the efficacy of SBY in supporting the shift from low economy crops to high value horticulture crops.
3. To ascertain the nature and scale of resistance to the scheme from the employees of the Horticulture Department and other interest groups and their ways of expression.
4. To recommend ways and means to implement SBY effectively.

V. Proposed methodology

Required data and information is to be collected through focus group discussion of participating farmers and some potential participants, personal interviews of key officials, honey traders, marketing agencies and other key stakeholders. It is necessary to cover all the agro-ecological regions of the state during the study. A limited survey of households may also be taken up. Sample size and the justification for the same are to be provided by the participating consultants. Number of households benefitted by SBY, the number of farmers who shifted from traditional crops to horticulture crops, the resulting rise in horticultural production in the state in tons and economic benefit to the households as well as to the state in lakh rupees will be the units of analysis.

VI. Deliverables and Time Schedule

- a) **Request for Proposal:** A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be issued to the prospective external consultants. Each one of them will be given an opportunity to conceive the study according to their expertise and understanding and make a power point presentation in about 20 minutes to a team of senior officers in the last week of May, 2013. The proposal which is the best in terms of methodology to adequately cover the objectives of the study and modest in terms of cost will be accepted and the contract will be awarded to the agency which makes such a proposal.

- b) **Inception Report:** Contract agreement will be signed with the successful bidder within a week of the award. The consultant should submit a detailed Inception Report in accordance with the guidelines that will be provided and get this approved within two weeks from the date of agreement.
- c) **Field survey and data collection:** Successful consultant will undertake the field survey and data collection work in accordance with the approved inception report and complete the same within two months of its communication.
- d) **Midterm progress report:** Upon completion of the 50% of the field survey work, the consultant will submit a midterm progress report and debrief the nodal officer.
- e) **Draft Evaluation Report:** A draft evaluation report should be submitted by the consultant within one month of completing the field survey work. The same will be placed before a joint committee of officers of the Horticulture Department and the KEA. It will be reviewed rigorously. The Consultant should revise the draft in accordance with the advice of the committee.
- f) **Final Evaluation Report:** Final Evaluation Report incorporating the review comments on the draft should be submitted within fifteen days after the review. 100 copies of the report, along with copies of survey tools, raw field data and processed outputs should be submitted. These items and a copy of the report will be posted on the website of Horticulture Department as well as that of KEA.

VII. Payment schedule

Cost of contract will be paid in four installments as below:

- 40% will be released as advance on signing of the contract
- 30% will be released after completing 50% of field survey work
- 20% will be released after the draft report is approved.
- 10% will be released after submitting the final report along with data etc.

VIII. Nodal Officer

Sri Maheswar, Additional Director of Horticulture will act as the nodal officer for this study. He will provide additional information if needed and clarify doubts if any. He will make necessary arrangements for coordinating the field survey work.

IX. Oversight for the study:

Karnataka Evaluation Authority will provide the complete oversight for the study. All technical aspects of the study are subject their approval.

X. Expectation from the study

SBY is an important and futuristic scheme of the Horticulture Department. The proposed study is expected to provide an in depth analysis of the shortcomings of the scheme. More importantly, it should provide the necessary inputs in terms of policy changes that are required, modalities of implementing SBY, adequacy and the scale of financing to be done and convergence possibilities etc., with a view to benefit the rural community to the maximum extent possible.

Approved
Kus
28/5/2013
Chief Evaluation Officer
Karnataka Evaluation Authority
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