

GUIDELINES FOR TRANSITIONING OF PKVY PROJECTS AS PER THE REVISED NORMS, EFFECTIVE FROM 1.04.2021

BACKGROUND

PKVY a flagship scheme of DAC&FW is in operation since last six years and more than 7.2 lakh ha area has been transformed to organic/ natural farming and certified under PGS-India certification. The scheme is being implemented in cluster mode of 20 ha each.

Project implementation is being arranged through private service providers, authorised as Regional Councils under PGS-India programme of DAC&FW. In many states district administration/ ATMA's are also acting as service providers and also authorised as Regional Councils. In Phase I entire project implementation including PGS certification was undertaken by the same agency. This has raised questions of certification integrity. Keeping this in mind, in Phase II, states were advised to entrust cluster development, capacity building and handholding for production and marketing to one agency and PGS certification to another agency to keep certification independent of cluster management. But in many cases the same agency was in cluster management for one set of clusters and certification for another set of clusters. In many cases the agencies were performing the vice versa roles on reciprocity.

To ensure that certification which is a quality assurance system, remains independent of cluster management, handling inputs and trading of farm produce, the task of certification needs to be entrusted only to the agencies that are involved only in certification and have no activity which can amount to conflict of interest. Such independence is necessary to keep the sanctity of certification for credibility in the market and among consumers.

Therefore, now it has been decided that PKVY clusters implementation will be done by two separate agencies having independent roles:

- (a) Service providers/ Facilitation agencies (SP/FAs) for cluster management, capacity building, handholding farmers for production, inputs management and handholding for documentation, peer appraisals and market facilitation and
- (b) Regional Councils duly authorised under PGS-India programme for PGS certification.

To facilitate the states for effective implementation and to avoid the need for each state to go in for selection through EOIs/ tenders etc based on different criteria, the DAC&FW has decided to empanel the agencies for two purposes. States can choose any of them for two activities.

The list of empanelled Service Providers/ Facilitation Agencies (SP/FAs) for implementation of PKVY clusters is attached at Annexure 1.

The list of empanelled/ authorised Regional Councils for PGS Certification is attached at Annexure 2.

States need to ensure that henceforth (w.e.f 01.04.2021) the PKVY implementation is taken up only through the empanelled agencies as SP/FAs and Authorised Regional Councils.

All ongoing projects also need to be completed only through the empanelled SP/FAs and authorised Regional Councils.

The transitioning of all projects from the existing agencies which could not qualify as SP/FAs as per revised empanelment norms and Regional Councils which could not get renewal (now referred as outgoing RCs) under new PGS norms, needs to be completed in next 60 days but not later than 10th September 2021. In transitioning following guidelines may be followed:

- a. All outgoing RCs which have been entrusted with the task of cluster development, capacity building and handholding as service providers (other than certification), can continue without any change as such activity is not affected by their status as RC. These agencies can continue as Service Providers only against the ongoing projects sanctioned on or before 31.3.2021.
- b. All projects sanctioned on or after 01.04.2021 be got implemented only through the empanelled agencies.
- c. All outgoing RCs entrusted with PGS certification task under PKVY, their groups need to be shifted to other newly authorised RC within the period of 60 days up to 10.09.2021.
- d. Outgoing RCs are being provided a window of 60 days up to 10th September 2021 to transfer their registered groups to the new RCs in consultation with the states. Such RCs can assist the state Govt scheme implementation officers to facilitate swift transitioning.
- e. In cases, where state Governments has entered into MOU or any legal agreement with such outgoing RCs for certification, a one-time exception can be granted on the recommendations of the state Government allowing these RCs to complete the assigned task of certification as per the terms and conditions of MOU/ agreement.
- f. In all such cases the outgoing RCs will be allowed the certification activity only in respect of the Clusters/ groups sanctioned under PKVY on or before 31.3.2021 and agreed by the states as per terms and conditions of MOU or agreement.
- g. To avail the exception, states are requested to put up necessary proposal, indicating the date up to which, exception is requested along with list of such RCs and copy of MOU/ agreement to the Director NCOF-cum Executive Secretary PGS-India, 19 Hapur Road, Ghaziabad, UP-201001.
- h. States are requested to put up proposals for grant of exception at the earliest, but not later than 16th August 2021, to ensure that PKVY project implementation is not disrupted and RCs assigned with the task, complete certification process for the period agreed upon by the states.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT W.E.F 01.04.2021 PKVY IMPLEMENTATION SHALL BE DONE ONLY THROUGH THE EMPANELLED SP/FA AND AUTHORISED REGIONAL COUNCILS REVISED FROM TIME TO TIME. UPDATED LIST CAN BE SEEN ON PGS-INDIA PORTAL.