

## GOVT OF ODISHA

### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS' EMPOWERMENT

No 11207 / A&FE  
AG-AB-20/2020

Dated 16-07-2020,

### NOTIFICATION

Sub: Scheme for financing Joint Liability Groups / Share croppers - "**Bhoomihina Agriculturist Loan & Resources Augmentation Model (BALARAM)**"

To augment flow of credit to farmers cultivating land as share croppers a scheme '**BALARAM (Bhoomihina Agriculturist Loan And Resources Augmentation Model)**' has been formulated in association with NABARD. The target of the scheme is to form 1 lakh Joint Liability Groups covering at least 5 lakh farmers mainly from among those who are share croppers using ATMA (Agricultural Technology Management Agency) platform of the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Govt. of Odisha.

#### **Introduction:**

As an agrarian State, almost 62% of the rural workforce of Odisha are engaged in agriculture and allied activities. Agriculture sector still continues to be the major source of livelihoods for a major chunk of the population of the state, although the Gross Value Added (GVA) from the sector in Odisha is only 19.9 % in 2019-20. During the current situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, the state can leverage the potential of agricultural sector in reviving the economy. A number of migrant labourers have returned to their homes in different regions of Odisha. In this context the scheme seeks to provide better opportunities to the landless and marginal farmers, among them, in the agriculture and allied sector for their gainful employment. It is necessary to strengthen the farmers cultivating land as share croppers in the state and enable them to avail loan through formal credit institutions. This is expected to reduce the dependence of the sharecroppers on the money lenders and other informal sources of credit, which is often at usurious rates of interest.

#### **Background:**

Usually, the share croppers who are landless or marginal cultivators do not have access to most of the assistance and facilities provided by Government. The idea of financing Joint Liability Group (JLG) i.e. a group of farmers (minimum 5) is an existing concept and various models have been tried for financing of JLGs. In 'SAMRUDHI' the new Agriculture Policy-2020 of Govt. of Odisha, one of the

important measures of action is the promotion of a new model to facilitate sharecroppers by providing institutional credit. Under the 5T initiative, there is a "Task Team" with an objective of financing 5 lakhs sharecroppers in a five years duration. Accordingly, the scheme "BALARAM" (Bhoomihina Agriculturist Loan and Resources Augmentation Model) has been formulated.

### **Data of Sharecroppers**

According to the estimation of the Agriculture Census 2015-16, there are 48.66 lakhs operational holdings in Odisha. Out of this about 9.05 lakhs operational holdings are of "leased in" tenancy status (2.83 lakhs are of "wholly leased in" and 6.22 lakhs are of "partly leased in" tenancy status). In brief about 18.6% of operational holdings are being operated by sharecroppers out of which 93.2% are small and marginal farmers.

### **Key Features**


To facilitate crop loan financing to share croppers in a more focused manner the scheme envisages to use the structured platform of Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) for programme implementation. The salient features of the scheme are:

1. The farmers practising cultivation shall be the target group of crop loan financing in JLG mode.
2. Crop Loans amounting to a maximum of Rs 1.60 lakh per group ( as per RBI norms) shall be financed by the banks.
3. The eligibility of group financing shall depend upon the CIBIL (Credit Information Bureau of India Ltd) score of individual farmers and other banking regulations.
4. The Krushak Sathis who are local progressive farmers shall play the prime role of motivator in JLG formation assist the members in the documentation, & liaise with the banks for crop loan financing.
5. Krushak Sathis shall assess the credit needs of the farmers for farming activities in his/her Gram Panchayat and form a group of such farmers with minimum 5 farmers.
6. The existing farmer data base containing information of the landless and small / marginal farmers shall be made available to Krushak Sathis so as to help them in identification of appropriate beneficiaries.
7. Capacity building of officials involved at various levels shall be taken up by the NABARD.
8. Banks will have specific targets for financing of crop loans to JLG.
9. The VAW/AO will issue the Certificate of Cultivation (CoC) to the share croppers in the prescribed format based on field verification (**Annexure I**).

10. After harvest & sale of produce in procurement centre of market yard, the Krushak Sathi will guide the farmers in timely repayment of loan.
11. Technological interventions like a dedicated portal with access to all stakeholders and real time monitoring of crop condition through Mobile App & remote Sensing Technology shall be developed and used.
12. Incentives @Rs 2000/- per JLG shall be provided to Krushak Sathi in 3 tranches by NABARD i.e. Rs 1000/- on formation of the group & financing by banks; Rs 500/- on repayment of loan by the JLG and finally Rs 500/- on refinancing.
13. Institute on Management of Agricultural Extension (IMAGE) shall be the State Nodal Agency for programme implementation.
14. Mid-term evaluation of the programme shall be taken up for course correction.


Detailed Operational Guidelines for smooth implementation of the scheme are being separately formulated.

**By Order of Governor**

  
**Principal Secretary to Government**  
15/7/20

Memo No.....11208...../A&FE, Dt. 16-07-2020.

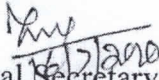
Copy forwarded to the Heads of Portal.IT Center, Odisha Secretariat for information and necessary action. He is requested to launch the Notification in the Website of Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment for general information.

  
Additional Secretary to Government

Memo No.....11209...../A&FE, Dt.

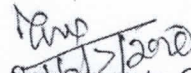
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of Agriculture & F.E./P.S. to Principal Secretary to Govt., Finance Department/P.S. to Commissioner-Cum-Secretary, Cooperation Department for kind information of Hon'ble Minister, Agriculture/Chief Secretary, Odisha/D.C.-cum-ACS / APC/Principal Secretary, Agriculture & F.E./ Special Secretary to Government, Department of Agriculture & F.E./Principal Secretary to Govt., Finance Department /Commissioner-cum-Secretary,Co-operation. / copy to IMU Section of A&FE/ Copy to SIO ,NIC ,Bhubaneswar.

  
Additional Secretary to Government

Memo No.....11210...../A&FE, Dt.

Copy forwarded to the Director of Agriculture and Food Production, Odisha, Bhubaneswar/Director, Horticulture, Odisha/Managing Director,OSCB/CGM,NABARD, Odisha, Bhubaneswar/ Convenor,SLBC,UCO Bank, BBSR for information and necessary action.

  
Additional Secretary to Government

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS' EMPOWERMENT**

**Certificate of Cultivation**

This is to certify that (Name of the farmer), (Address) is cultivating land as detailed below during the year \_\_\_\_\_.

**District-**

**Block-**

**(GP/ ULB)-**

**Village/SU-**

**Farmer ID—**

**KALIA ID--**

<b>Name of the land owner</b>		<b>Land details</b>	<b>District- Tahasil- Village- Khatiyon no- Plot no-</b>
Season / Year	Kharif / Rabi	Land in acres	
Crops			

**Date of Issue:**

**Place:**

**Signature of Issuing Officer**