

MEGHALAYA STATE GUIDELINES FOR CONVERGENCE



STATE INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT MEGHALAYA
(AN APEX TRAINING INSTITUTE IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA)

CONTENTS

CHAPTERS		PAGE NO.
CHAPTER-I	Introduction	1 - 3
CHAPTER-II	Aims and Objectives	4 - 5
CHAPTER-III	Planning process & Resource Pooling	6 - 8
CHAPTER-IV	Fund Management	- - 9
CHAPTER-V	Implementation	10 - 12
CHAPTER-VI	Training and Capacity Building	- - 13
CHAPTER-VII	Transparency and Accountability	- - 14
CHAPTER-VIII	Monitoring and Evaluation	- - 15
APPENDIXES		
Tentative Convergence Matrix - I		16 - 26
Convergence Chart-II		27 - 35
Guidelines for Providing technological inputs to the schemes of MoRD by ICAR and its field institutions like KVKs-III		36 - 41
Joint Convergence Guidelines: SGSY and ICAR -IV		42 - 50
Guidelines for Convergence between NREGS and the schemes of MoWR -V		51 - 63
Guidelines for convergence between MGNREGA and MoEF - VI		64 - 72
Guidelines for convergence between MGNREGA and PMGSY- VII		73 - 79
Guidelines for Convergence of NREGS with programmes of MoA for enhancing productivity - VIII		80 - 82

The Introduction is an extract from Convergence in Rural Development Programmes Training Module for faculty Members of NIRD with minor modifications

CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION

1. INTRODUCTION:

Billions of rupees are spent annually in rural areas by the Central and State governments under various programmes and in various sectors. Each programme is implemented based on a set of guidelines and by different set of administrative and institutional mechanisms. Several important Ministries commit substantial resources for rural areas. The details of the Ministries and their programmes are as below:

MINISTRY	PROGRAMME
Ministry of Rural Development	MGNREGA
	IWMP
	RWS
	TSC
	SGSY/NRLM
	IAY
	PMGSY
Ministry of Human Resource Development	SSA
Ministry of Panchayati Raj	BRGF
Ministry of Agriculture	RKVY
	NFSM
	NHM
Ministry of Women and Child Welfare	ICDS
Ministry of Health	NRHM
Ministry of Minority Affairs	MSDP
	NMDFC
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	ADIP
Ministry of Tribal Affairs	PMS
	TRIFED
Ministry of Environment and Forest	NAP & JFM
Ministry of Water Resources	IWRM
	AIBP
Ministry of Energy and Power	RGGBY

The State Departments and Agencies that have sizeable or marginal resource commitment for rural areas are as below:

- Department of C&RD
- Department of Fisheries (Meghalaya Aquaculture Mission)
- Border Area Development Department
- Department of Agriculture and Horticulture
- Department of Sericulture
- Forest and Environment Department
- Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department
- Public Health Engineering Department
- Public Works Department
- Department of Co-operation
- Department of Tourism
- Department of Water Resources
- Department of health and Family Welfare
- Department of Social Welfare
- Department of Non-Conventional and Renewable Energy
- State Council for Science Technology and Environment
- Soil and Water Conservation Department
- Integrated Basin Development and Livelihood

Programme (IBDLP) The other Institutions that could partner and/or support convergence are:

- National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB)
- Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD)
- National Co-operative Development Council (NCDC)
- FISHCOPFED
- TRIFED
- KVIC
- MH&HDC

- **Financial Institutions viz., MCAB, NABARD, NEDFI, etc.**

Though enormous resources flow into the rural areas, the outcomes do not always commensurate with the efforts. The successes are fragmented and isolated. Despite concerted efforts by the State, most of the development departments continue to function in a compartmentalized manner. This leads to problems of coordination and **sub-optimal utilization** of both human and financial resources. Further, nature of the programme delivery and implementation at the field level is beset with inefficiencies, poor implementation efforts, corruption, lack of transparency, and time and cost over-runs.

Many of the programmes in the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India and the programmes of several other Ministries have some overlapping areas in terms of work and target groups. Processes and activities are also quite similar in many ways in these programmes. All guidelines stipulate inter-programme coordination and convergence. The issue of convergence and integrated approach is not new in that sense. For instance, the JRY/JGSY/SGRY have stipulated convergence in the past which has helped the programmes of Universalization of Primary Education (OBB and DPEP for school building, toilets and drinking water), construction of PHCs and Anganwadis for women child welfare are some other examples of inter-ministry convergence. However, these are sporadic and seen in pockets where leadership is dynamic and proactive. There is no conscious effort to internalize and institutionalize successful experiences.

The experience during the last three decades in particular with Poverty Alleviation Programmes (PAPs) echoes the above view. The nodal departments of poverty alleviation programmes and the District Rural Development Agencies at the cutting edge level have been seeking the support of the line departments and specialized agencies in implementing the programmes. In fact, the latter will have to play a greater role in the planning and implementation of PAPs while they have traditionally played a secondary role. Problems of cooperation and coordination are inherent at every stage of planning and execution.

The formation of multi-disciplinary teams that would be called as the Resource Groups where key players like line departments, societies, agencies and experts would perhaps be an essential pre-requisite to achieve convergence at the field level for optimum utilization of resources and sustainability.

CHAPTER-II

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 CONVERGENCE: THE NEED OF THE HOUR:

**CONVERGENCE MEANS TO COME FROM DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS AND
EVENTUALLY PURSUE COMMON INTEREST**

Convergence is the successful delivery of services that are provided by different organizations in unison. Convergence manifests itself in many forms such as partnerships as in the case of public-private partnerships, collaborative actions, coalitions, consortia, networks. The approach focusses on pooling of resources that are available with related sectors into a single activity that will result in enhancing benefits acquired by the target groups.

Convergence aims at bringing together different organizations/agencies/departments to perform a task. This will enable successful delivery of services that previously did not exist or were provided separately by different organizations. **Strategic planning, complementary and coherence** are essential ingredients of convergence. A convergent approach to planning and implementation of the programme will involve certain social process encompassing co-operation, coordination, competition, accommodation, assimilation, integration and partnership.

It is expected that convergence of inter-sectoral programmes within the State Government will enable better planning and effective investment in the various sectors. Convergence also brings synergy between different government programmes and /or schemes in terms of their planning, process and implementation. It also helps in avoiding duplication of efforts by different agencies and thus saves resources in terms of time and money. Convergence of related sectors is the key towards a holistic approach for the development initiatives and investments.

In order to achieve better delivery and produce visible impact in convergence efforts, the process of **Co-creation** and **Co-ordination** need to be streamlined whereby key stakeholders express interest in achieving a common set of objectives and all agencies involve synchronize their activities meaningfully right from the planning stage.

Convergence must lead to value addition, augmenting benefits of counterparts, sharing benefits equitably and result in sustainability of outcomes. In certain cases, MGNREGA alone does not provide quality works as the material component is restricted to 40% of the project cost and the use of machinery is prohibited. However, through convergence this could be complemented as additional materials and machineries can be used in certain key areas thereby improving the quality of assets created under MGNREGA.

The operationalization of convergence would include:

1. Institutional mechanism for Planning, Implementation and Management
2. Pooling of resources both human and financial

3. Capacity Building and Training
4. Transparency and Accountability, and
5. Monitoring and Evaluation

2.2 AIM:

Facilitating hundred percent delivery of rural sector programmes through convergence in areas of planning, implementation, capacity building, monitoring and evaluation for sustainable development.

2.3 OBJECTIVES:

The main objectives of convergence and these guidelines are to

- (a) Enable sharing of resources for common objectives
- (b) Improve quality of services provided
- (c) Enhance effectiveness of programme delivery
- (d) Develop effective linkages with various development initiatives
- (e) Save resources in terms of time and money
- (f) Avoid duplication of efforts and redundant actions
- (g) Establishing synergy among different government programmes in planning & implementation to optimize use of public investments.
- (h) Ensure that the works under MGNREGA are made durable through appropriate inputs.
- (i) Facilitate better quality planning and selection of works capable of generating sustainable employment.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES:

It is anticipated that convergence of programs would accelerate the development processes and initiatives and contribute towards rapid economic growth and poverty alleviation.

CHAPTER-III

PLANNING PROCESS AND RESOURCE POOLING

3. PLANNING PROCESS:

Effective Planning is critical to ensure successful implementation of convergence initiative and every stakeholder has to be involved in letter and spirit for the purpose.

3.1 INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM:

The guidelines lay emphasis on the formation of inter-sectorial committees at the State, District, Block and the village level to achieve the objectives. The approach of forming inter-sectorial, inter-departmental committees is expected to integrate the objectives, functions so that the outcome would be sustainable.

3.1.1 STATE LEVEL:

The State Government may designate a department, preferably the Community and Rural Development Department as the nodal department that will be responsible for management, monitoring and evaluation of the programme as MGNREGA would be the focal point for convergence. MGNREGA would definitely be at the heart of convergence as it is an Act of Parliament and all other schemes and programmes are being implemented on a set of flexible guidelines.

A High Powered Committee headed by the Chief Secretary and consisting of inter-alia State Secretaries in charge of various sectors under which works are to be taken up shall consider and approve convergence initiatives to be taken up. The Secretary of the nodal department shall be the Member-Secretary of the High Powered Committee (HPC). The HPC will also approve district plans on convergence.

The nodal department will be responsible for the collection and compilation of basic information relating to various sectors and identify the critical gaps. The nodal department shall also identify and empanel Technical Support Institutions (TSI) to prepare a vision document on convergence, covering all the sectors and interventions and consolidate workable plans. The same will be placed before the HPC for approval and thereafter be intimated to the districts, blocks and villages.

3.1.2 DISTRICT LEVEL:

The Deputy Commissioner (DC) of each district shall be designated as the District Project Coordinator (DPC)/Project Director of DRDA shall be designated as the Additional District Programme Coordinator/Member Secretary. The DPC shall constitute a District Level Convergence Committee (DLCC) at the district level with representatives from the Line Departments. The District Level Convergence Committee shall be responsible for the collection and compilation of basic information relating to various sectors and identify the critical gaps and prepare a district vision document on convergence, covering all the sectors and interventions and consolidate workable plans by engaging the empanelled Technical Support Institutions (TSI) assigned for the district. After due consideration the DLCC shall approve the document prepared by the TSI and shall be forward the same to the State nodal department for inclusion in the State document.

Upon the nodal department's concurrence of the District Plan, the DPC shall constitute a dedicated team of officials from the participating departments to over-see the implementation of convergences projects within the District.

3.1.3 BLOCK LEVEL:

The Project Director (DRDA) shall be the Chairman of the Block Level Convergence Committee (BLCC) comprising of representatives from various Line Departments and the Block Development Officer shall be the Member Secretary. The TSI shall assist the BLCC for the collection and compilation of basic information relating to various sectors, identify the critical gaps and prepare the block vision document covering all the sectors and interventions and consolidate workable plans. The same will be placed before the (BLCC) for approval.

3.1.4 VILLAGE LEVEL:

The Village Employment Council (VEC) that is the principal authority for planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of MGNREGA projects shall oversee all convergence projects at the village level. The VEC could constitute a Village Convergence Committee that includes Chairmen of Watershed Associations, Watershed Committees, Water and Sanitation Committees, etc. to be chaired by the VEC Chairman that shall ensure proper implementation of convergence projects at the village level. The VEC shall identify the critical gaps and works to be taken up at the village level and forward the same to the Block Development Officer for consolidation of the Block Plan with the assistance of the TSI assigned for the district. The VEC being the crux for strategic planning of activities for convergence should be complementary and coherent in nature. It is responsible for planning, implementation, supervision and keeping track of the activities taken up. Copies of all documents relating to convergence shall be made available with the VEC.

3.1.5 PLANNING PROCESS:

Effective Planning is critical to ensure successful implementation of convergence initiative and each VEC will be the unit for planning. In the event that convergence initiatives would only be fruitful when two or more villages are involved, the VECs of these villages could form a Cluster Convergence Group (CCG) to ensure that desirable outcomes are achieved. The BDO shall be responsible to scrutinize and consolidate all plans prepared and approved by each VEC and CCG into the block level convergence plan. The BDO will then forward the block plan to the DPC who will consolidate and approve the same into the district plan in a meeting of the District Level Convergence Committee (DLCC). There is a need to coordinate different levels of planning and a shelf of works is to be prepared well in advance. While an annual plan for convergence for each financial year will be prepared by the month of December of the preceding year, a Perspective Plan based on the approved TSI documents shall also be considered and referred to.

Line departments may also submit project proposals along with a No Objection Certificate from the concerned VEC and the plans and estimates. The DPC shall scrutinize the Project proposals and if found satisfactory, Administrative Order will be issued to the concerned line department with a copy to the Programme Officer.

3.2 RESOURCE POOLING WILL BE DIVIDED THE FOLLOWING HEADS:

1. Human Resources
2. Financial Resources

3.2.1 HUMAN RESOURCES:

A dedicated team comprising of representatives from line Departments, Financial Institutions, NGOs and other agencies will be deployed at each level and rigorously trained for implementation of convergence initiatives and their management. Each line department is to ensure that technical expertise and capable manpower are available for taking up the projects.

3.2.2 FINANCIAL RESOURCES:

Information on financial resources available and expected to be made available in the ensuing years shall be declared, this will determine works/activities that can be taken up and indicate where activity convergence will enable gap filling or augmentation in scale and value. It will also indicate the funds that will be available under each activity.

Upon approval of the convergence initiatives, all funds shall be transferred to the consolidated funds of the State Government. These funds will then be transferred to the account of the DLCC who will in turn transfer them into the account of the District Management Group (DMG) constituted by the DPC.

3.3 THE RELEASE OF FUNDS:

Based on the approved list of projects the nodal agency at the State level shall release 50 percent of the funds from the State pool of financial resources to the respective DLCC.

Upon utilization of 60 percent of the funds of the first installment the DPC shall apply for the next installment through a prescribed format and release will be subject to the following conditions:

1. Submission of utilization certificate on the funds utilized.
2. Submission of progress reports.
3. Submission of non-diversion and non-duplication certificate and any other condition that maybe indicated from time to time.

The release of funds for the next financial year will depend on the submission of the audit report and utilization certificate duly countersigned by the Auditor, for the previous year to the satisfaction of the nodal department/HPC.

The nodal department/HPC will release funds equal to the expenditure incurred and admissible under each project. If, on the basis of the actual utilization pattern it is felt that the initial installment approved is not adequate for meeting the DLCC's half yearly requirements, the Nodal Department/HPC may release a larger installment of funds to the DLCC based on substantial justification. On the other hand if the pace of utilization is slow, the Nodal Department/HPC may release a smaller amount.

The Nodal Department/HPC may suspend assistance to the concerned resource group for improper use of funds and assistance will be restored only after remedial measures have been affected.

The DPC/BDO will release funds to the management group in the District/Block/Village for works sanctioned to them for execution. The sanctioned amounts shall be pro-actively disclosed.

Assistance to projects will be on the works and processes approved by the HPC.

CHAPTER-IV

FUND MANAGEMENT

4.1 BANK ACCOUNT AND MANAGEMENT OF FUNDS:

Each resource management group shall have a bank account for the purpose of implementing convergence projects. This account shall be operated jointly by the chairman and secretary of the Convergence Committee/designated officials of the management group

Funds from the convergence initiatives may be spent only on such projects that have received the required administrative and technical sanction of the competent authorities.

All accounts shall be presented for scrutiny at the biannual social audit forums in a specified format.

Any diversion of funds under the convergence initiatives will be treated as a defalcation and recovery proceedings will be immediately initiated.

To reduce the risk of financial leakages and to promote transparency and accountability in fund management the practice of 'monthly squaring of accounts' shall be introduced. This consists of verifying that all the money released under each convergence project is accounted under the following heads:

1. Money held in the bank account of each Convergence Committee, Management Group and Implementing agency
2. Advances to Convergence Committee, Management Group and Implementing agency
3. Receipts and Vouchers of actual expenditures

Details of monthly squaring of accounts should be made publicly available through the use all possible and available media.

4.2 INFORMATIONAL RESOURCE POOLING:

Data management could be converged through the use of MGNREGA MIS, which provides work wise/beneficiary wise details. Any additional feature required by the line department development programs may be incorporated in the MGNREGA. The line department data may be made available for use for planning and executing MGNREGA and line department related works.

CHAPTER-V

IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 IMPLEMENTATION:

The Resource Groups constituted in accordance with paragraph 3.1.2, 3.1.3 and 3.1.4 will undertake the implementation of the convergence programmes. The implementation of works should be taken up by the Resource Groups at the appropriate level in accordance with the respective activity mapping exercise that would be undertaken during the planning phase. The DPC shall decide the implementing Departments/Agencies for works falling outside the domain of the respective resource group with clear powers of monitoring and supervision with the knowledge of the concerned Resource Group.

5.1.1 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS:

- (a) At the village level, the VEC shall be the responsible for planning and implementation of the Scheme with a maximum slab of rupees five lakhs. The VEC will be assisted by the field staff of the concerned departments and will be responsible for identification of the works in the village area and for executing and supervising such works.
- (b) At the block level, the Block Level Convergence Committee (BLCC) will assign tasks to the concerned departments, agencies, VEC having the capability to perform the activity based on the respective sector with a slab of rupees 5,00,001 -10,00,000.
- (c) At the district level, special bodies for management committees, societies etc. shall be set up for implementing of the convergence initiatives. This decision will be taken by the DPC in consultation with the DLCC. In order to facilitate special attention the supervision, management and monitoring of the program, Standing Committees constituted within such bodies under legal provisions may be strengthened for the purpose.
- (d) At the state level, the HPC will advise and direct the participating departments involved to implement the approved convergence initiative for works beyond rupees fifty lakhs (50, 00,000). Further the HPC for convergence will ensure that all administrative, financial and budgetary allocations would be released in a timely manner with priority being given to convergence projects that would create most impact and those involving 4 and more departments/agencies.

5.2 TECHNICAL INPUTS:

A mutually agreed upon Schedule of Rates (SoR) with respect to survey, planning & design and implementation shall be arrived at, by consultation with departments and agencies involved and shall be approved by the HPC.

Technical inputs and norms as specified in the guidelines and project reports of the concerned departments shall be taken into consideration for this purpose.

5.3 EXECUTION OF WORKS:

5.3.1 COMMUNICATION:

Since programs adopt a participatory process, detail, unambiguous and timely information on all aspects of the projects under convergence mode have to be provided to each stake holder. Each of the participating departments and agencies will have to prepare a list of activities along with detail explanation on the processes of each activity that will be performed by them and submit them to the DPC for concurrence and circulate the same to all the stakeholders including the village community concerned prior to the execution of works.

5.3.2 IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES:

The implementing agencies will comprise of Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Human Resource development, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women and Child Development (ICDS), Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the Ministry of Social Justice and Equity, Ministry of Tribal affairs, Ministry of Environment & Forest, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Energy and Power, Department of C&RD, Meghalaya Aquaculture Mission, Border Area Development Department, Department of Co-operation, Department of Tourism, Department of Water Resources, Soil and Water conservation Department, Integrated Basin Development and Livelihood Programme (IBDLP), National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD), National Co-operative Development Council (NCDC), FISHCOPFED, TRIFED, KVIC, MH&HDC, Financial Institutions; Kisan Credit Card (KCC), MCAB, Private entrepreneurs and reputed NGOs having a proven track record of performance. Good performing Self-help Groups and Federations may also be considered as possible Implementing Agencies.

5.3.3 WORKS SANCTIONS:

In each Block, the BDO shall be responsible of allotting works in terms of its cost under a Scheme to be implemented through the BLCC/VEC. All works will be required to obtain Administrative Sanction and Technical Sanction in advance, by December of the year preceding the proposed implementation.

Based on the Administrative Order, the PO/BDO shall act as the authority empowered to start works (by issuing Work Orders) and priority will be given to such projects where convergence initiatives have been identified, planned and approved.

At the District Level, the DPC shall be responsible of allotting works in terms of its cost under a Scheme to be implemented through the BLCC/VEC. All works will be required to obtain Administrative Sanction and Technical Sanction in advance, by December of the year preceding the proposed implementation. The DPC will also be responsible in overseeing all sanctions made at the state level.

At the State Level, the Principal Secretary/Commissioner Secretary of the nodal department shall be responsible for sanction of work orders to the implementing agencies.

5.3.4 IMPLEMENTATION OF WORKS:

For works implemented at the village level and where convergence is with MGNREGA, the VEC and the concerned line departments shall co-implement the projects. In such cases, there shall be a ban on contractors and the VEC shall be responsible to mobilize Job Card Holders to work under the project. Muster Rolls shall be prepared by the concerned VEC and shall be verified jointly by the PO and the concerned line department. The amount due after verification of Muster Rolls shall be transferred to the account of the Job Card Holder or the VEC only.

CHAPTER-VI

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Training and Capacity Building shall be an integral part of all convergence initiatives. Training of personnel/agencies responsible must be planned and implemented

- 6.1** Knowledge Sharing and familiarization of all the members of the group on the guidelines of the program, which should clarify the programmed parameters for what can be converged and what cannot.
- 6.2** All key agencies will need to be trained in discharging their responsibilities. This will include the Convergence Committees, District-and-State-level department personnel involved in implementing the programs, as well as local committees/groups formed for the purpose of vigilance, monitoring and social audit. Basic training on core issues must be arranged by the State Government with priority accorded to its key functionaries, especially the Districts Program Coordinator, the Block Development Officer and other key functionaries. VEC being the Agency situated at the grass root level, needs maximum capacity building. Its members are to be well equipped with knowledge and information on the Scheme before entrusting them with the most important and crucial job. For this purpose, the District shall identify competent master trainers at the District and Block level who will undergo an intensive training at the SIRD and who shall in turn train the VEC members. Further, support in terms of technical manpower and infrastructure needs to be provided to the VECs for efficient delivery of services.
- 6.3** In addition to helping various agencies in performing their duties, training programs should be given priority to the competencies required for effective planning, work management, public disclosure, social audits and use of the Right to Information Act, 2005.
- 6.4** The State Government shall identify the nodal agency for Capacity Building and Training under convergence initiatives preferably the State Institute of Rural Development.
- 6.5** Functionaries may also be sent to other Institutions of repute within and outside the State or Country depending upon the need.

CHAPTER-VII

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

7.1 RIGHT TO INFORMATION:

The Right to Information should apply to all projects taken up under the convergence approach. Request for copies of documents under convergence projects shall be proactively disclosed without waiting for anyone to apply for them. Further no request for disclosure of documents should be refused under any circumstances. A list of key documents to be disclosed should be prescribed in the action plans of each group and the HPC may add more documents to be disclosed. Public access to key records and key information should be ensured at all levels. Updated data of such records shall be available to reveal the progress of the schemes.

7.2 ANNUAL REPORTS:

The nodal agency is to prepare an annual report which should be placed before the State Assembly within 6 months of the end of the preceding financial year.

7.3 FINANCIAL AUDIT:

Financial Audit must be carried out at the end of the financial year by each District by either local fund auditors or by chartered accountants appointed by the State Government.

The audit reports and observations of the preceding year must be placed before the HPC and the State Assembly within 6 months.

7.4 PHYSICAL AUDIT:

A physical audit of the work undertaken will be conducted to verify the quality of works and to check that the expenditure is commensurate with the assets created.

7.5 SOCIAL AUDIT:

Biannual Social Audit shall be conducted for all convergence activities taken up. The social audit process shall be essentially taken up for all convergence activities with MGNREGA as per MGNREGA specified norms.

CHAPTER-VIII

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

8.1 Joint monitoring and supervision of activities should be planned on a set of indicators agreed upon by the concerned departments and quantification of the benefits accrued should also be taken up.

The DLCC/BLCC/VEC will monitor all the works at their own respective levels. The State Government shall monitor the performance of all districts on the quality and pace of implementation as laid down by the nodal department/HPC.

8.2 MONITORING METHODS:

Verification and quality audit by external monitors must be taken up at all the levels of project implementation.

The nodal department shall notify the State and District Quality Monitors with the approval of the HPC.

The terms of reference for the quality monitors shall be fixed by the HPC.

A comprehensive Monitoring Information System (MIS) will be developed to facilitate monitoring and online monitoring system for key performance indicators shall be evolved.

All programs implementation authorities shall report regularly on the system. Field visits, inspections and sample checks are to be undertaken on a regular basis to ensure comprehensive and continuous assessment of the projects.

8.3 EVALUATION:

The State Government shall conduct periodic evaluation studies on the implementation of convergence initiatives through institution, agencies and organizations of repute having good knowledge of the activities taken up. The DRG may also take up evaluation studies through institution and agencies of repute on their own regarding the implementation impact of the convergence initiatives and copies of these studies should be made available to the State Government.

Tentative Convergence Matrix- MGNREGA with various Line Departments/Boards/Institutions

Category of work	Type of works	Name of Line Departments / Boards / Institutions	Schemes	Roles & activities of Line Departments / Boards / Institutions
Water Conservation and Water Harvesting	<p><u>Water Conservation Measures:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Check Dams / Conservation Dams - Spring Chambers - Forest Reserve in the Catchment Area <p><u>Water Harvesting Measures:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - C.C dams across drainage lines /streams - Earthen dams with c.c core wells - Dugout ponds 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. C&RD / DRDA / VEC 2. Soil &Water Conservation 3. Water Resources Department 4. Fisheries 5. Horticulture 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MGNREGS 2. (a) IWMP (b) IBDLPP (Water Mission) 3. (a) Schemes of Department of Water Resources (b) IBDLPP 4. (a) Hariyali (b) Departmental Schemes (c) IBDLPP 5. (a) National Horticulture Mission (b) State Schemes of Horticulture Department (c) IBDLPP (Horticulture Mission) 	<p><u>VEC:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provision of labor 2. Identification of works 3. Maintenance of muster roll on the work site 4. Construction of different types of ponds like dug-out ponds, farm ponds, village ponds etc for conservation and harvesting of rain water. <p><u>Soil & Water Conservation:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Soil testing / inspection for verifying sustainability of soil for cropping and plantations 2. Training of land holding activities to the VEC functionaries. 3. Creation and rejuvenation of traditional water harvesting structures 4. Training and awareness raising on water conservation and water harvesting 5. Measures for protection, conservation and management of water and soil so as to minimize sedimentation of water bodies. <p><u>Department of Water Resources:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rejuvenation of springs. 2. Rejuvenation and conservation of traditional water bodies 3. Creation of water bodies <p><u>Fisheries:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification of Job Card holders as beneficiaries. 2. Furnishing of sample estimates for fishery ponds/dug-out ponds 3. Potential of water bodies for fisheries development

Category of work	Type of works	Name of Line Departments / Boards / Institutions	Schemes	Roles & activities of Line Departments / Boards / Institutions
				<p><u>Horticulture:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training for Horticulture plantations 2. Providing inputs / parameters for generation of estimates. 3. Provide irrigation to Horti-crops and water saving irrigation devices
<p>Drought Proofing (including afforestation and Plantation)</p>	<p><u>Drought Proofing Measures:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rainwater harvesting with dug out ponds - Encourage / motivate creation of reserve forest in the catchment area <p><u>Afforestation and trees plantation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plantation with local forest species and also valuable plantation / horticultural spices - Improvement of existing natural forest Conservation & Harvesting Measures 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. C&RD/DRDA/VEC 2. Forest 3. Soil & Water Conservation 4. Water Resources Department 5. Fisheries 6. Horticulture 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MGNREGS 2. (a) National Afforestation Programme (NAP) (b) JFMC (c) IBDLPP 3. (a) IWMP (b) IBDLPP (Water Mission) 4. (a) Schemes of Department of Water (b) IBDLPP 5. (a) Hariyali (b) Departmental Schemes (c) IBDLPP 6. (a) National Horticulture Mission (b) State Schemes of Horticulture Department (c) IBDLPP (Horticulture Mission) 	<p><u>VEC:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provision of labor 2. Identification of works 3. Maintenance of muster roll on the work site 4. Construction of culverts in MGNREGS roads. 5. Construction of different types of ponds like dug-out ponds, farm ponds, village ponds etc for conservation and harvesting of rain water <p><u>Forest:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Technical support, advice and arranging of planting materials for plantation of trees for NAP. 2. Rejuvenate jhum cultivated areas (major problem of NE Areas) 3. Organizing MGNREGS job card holders into JMFCs 4. Training and awareness raising 5. Monitoring and Evaluation 6. Encourage / motivate creation of reserve forest in catchment areas 7. Protection of catchment of water bodies through forestry and plantation. <p><u>Soil & Water Conservation:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Soil testing / inspection for verifying sustainability of soil for cropping and plantations 2. Training of land holding activities to the VEC functionaries.

Category of work	Type of works	Name of Line Departments / Boards / Institutions	Schemes	Roles & activities of Line Departments / Boards / Institutions
				<p>3. Creation and rejuvenation of traditional water harvesting structures</p> <p>4. Measures for protection, conservation and management of water and soil so as to minimize sedimentation of water bodies.</p> <p><u>Department of Water Resources:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rejuvenation of springs. 2. Rejuvenation and conservation of traditional water bodies 3. Creation of water bodies <p><u>Fisheries:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification of Job Card holders as beneficiaries. 2. Furnishing of sample estimates for fishery ponds / dug-out ponds 3. Potential of water bodies for fisheries development <p><u>Horticulture:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training for Horticulture plantations 2. Providing inputs / parameters for generation of estimates 3. Supply of samplings/seeds for plantation 4. For Meghalaya focus on orange / pine apple / banana / bamboo / betelnut / arecanut / anthurium plantation 5. Provide irrigation to Horti-crops and water saving irrigation devices
Irrigation canals including micro and minor irrigation works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Check dams (pucca & kutcha) - Canals / Structures construction - CC or brick canals - Aqueducts (cross drainage) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. C&RD / DRDA / VEC 2. Irrigation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MGNREGS 2. (a) AIBP (b) Command Area Development & Irrigation Programme 	<p><u>VEC:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification of work 2. Provision of labor 3. Maintenance of Muster rolls on the work site

Category of work	Type of works	Name of Line Departments / Boards / Institutions	Schemes	Roles & activities of Line Departments / Boards / Institutions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Embankments / MIP / drip irrigation - Removal of silt debris - Diversion head works 		(c) Farmers Participation Action Research Programme (FPARP)	<p><u>Irrigation:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Non permissible works under AIBP to be taken up by MGNREGS. 2. Value addition by MGNREGS projects in the command area / catchment area
<p>Renovation of Traditional Water bodies including desilting of tanks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spring chambers - Water tanks (Community / individual) - Ring well - Shallow tube well - Wells - Ponds - Renovation of existing works 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. C&RD/DRDA/VEC 2. Forest 3. Soil & Water Conservation 4. Water Resources Department 5. Fisheries 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MGNREGS 2. (a) National Afforestation Programme (NAP) <li style="padding-left: 20px;">(b) JFMC <li style="padding-left: 20px;">(c) IBDLPP 3. (a) IWMP <li style="padding-left: 20px;">(b) IBDLPP 4. (a) Schemes of Department of Water Resources <li style="padding-left: 20px;">(b) IBDLPP 5. (a) Hariyali <li style="padding-left: 20px;">(b) Departmental Schemes <li style="padding-left: 20px;">(c) IBDLPP 	<p><u>VEC:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provision of labor 2. Identification of works 3. Construction of culverts in MGNREGS roads. 4. Construction of different types of ponds like dug-out ponds, farm ponds, village ponds etc. <p><u>Forest:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Technical support, advice and arranging of planting materials for plantation of trees for NAP. 2. Rejuvenate jhum cultivated areas(major problem of NE Areas) 3. Organizing MGNREGS job card holders into JMFCs 4. Training and awareness raising 5. Monitoring and Evaluation 6. Protection of catchment of water bodies through forestry and plantation. <p><u>Soil & Water Conservation:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Soil testing / inspection for verifying sustainability of soil for cropping and plantations 2. Training of land holding activities to the VEC functionaries. 3. Creation and rejuvenation of traditional water harvesting structures 4. Measures for protection, conservation and management of water and soil so as to minimize sedimentation of water bodies

Category of work	Type of works	Name of Line Departments / Boards / Institutions	Schemes	Roles & activities of Line Departments / Boards / Institutions
				<p><u>Department of Water Resources:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rejuvenation of springs. 2. Rejuvenation and conservation of traditional water bodies 3. Creation of water bodies <p><u>Fisheries:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification of Job Card holders as beneficiaries. 2. Furnishing of sample estimates for fishery ponds / dug-out ponds 3. Potential of water bodies for fisheries development
Land Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Land reclamation / improvement of existing land - Wet terrace development - Soil erosion control for paddy - Gully controls measures - Contour bunds - Check dams - Construction of protection walls 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. C&RD/DRDA/VEC 2. Agriculture 3. Horticulture 4. Soil & Water Conservation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MGNREGS 2. BRGF 3. (a) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) (b) National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA) (c) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) 4. (a) National Horticulture Mission (b) State Schemes of Horticulture Department (c) IBDLPP 	<p><u>VEC:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification of beneficiaries 2. Provision of labor 3. Maintenance of Muster Rolls on the work site <p><u>Agriculture:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Site selection of VEC areas for schemes 2. Training 3. Survey and monitoring of convergent project and MGNREGS project in general 4. Technical support in preparation of estimates 5. Provide planting material HYV etc. <p><u>Horticulture:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training for Horticulture plantations 2. Providing inputs / parameters for generation of estimates 3. Supply of samplings / seeds for plantation 4. For Meghalaya focus on orange / pine apple / banana / bamboo / Betelnut / arecanut / anthurium plantation

Category of work	Type of works	Name of Line Departments / Boards / Institutions	Schemes	Roles & activities of Line Departments / Boards / Institutions
				<u>Soil & Water Conservation:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Soil testing / inspection for verifying sustainability of soil for cropping and plantations 2. Training of land holding activities to the VEC functionaries. 3. Training and awareness raising 4. Providing irrigation to Horti-crops
Flood Control, Protection & Drainage of Flooded Areas	<u>Flood Control:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of elevated areas above the highest flooded level (HFL) for temporary shelter - Vegetative cover with grass turbing and tree planting - Road cum embankment bund along rivers and streams <u>Protection works:</u> <p>(a) <u>Temporary measures / structures</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By means of jungle wood / bamboo palisading with sand filled gunny bags and earth filling - Salwood palisade - Providing spur with Sal piles for diverting water currents <p>(b) <u>Permanent Measures / structures</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Boulder sausage with earth filling, boulder pitching etc - Providing boulder net spur for diverting river / stream <u>Drainage of flooded areas:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - By providing temporary drains 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. C&RD/DRDA/VEC 2. Soil and Water Conservation 3. Forest 4. Agriculture 5. Horticulture 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MGNREGS 2. BRGF 3. (a) IWMP (b) IBDLPP 4. (a) National Afforestation Programme (NAP) (b) IBDLPP 5. (a) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) (b) National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRRA) (c) IBDLPP 6. (a) National Horticulture Mission (b) State Schemes of Horticulture Department (c) IBDLPP 	<u>VEC:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification of Work and Work Sites 2. Provision of labor 3. Maintenance of Muster Rolls on the work site <u>Soil & Water Conservation:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Soil testing / inspection for verifying sustainability of soil for cropping and plantations. 2. Creation and rejuvenation of traditional water bodies. 3. Training and awareness raising. 4. Measures for protection, conservation and management of water and soil so as to minimize sedimentation of water bodies <u>Forest:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Technical support, advice and arranging of planting materials for plantation of trees for NAP. 2. Rejuvenate jhum cultivated areas (major problem of NE Areas) 3. Training and awareness raising 4. Monitoring and Evaluation 5. Protection of catchment of water bodies through forestry programmes <u>Agriculture:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training

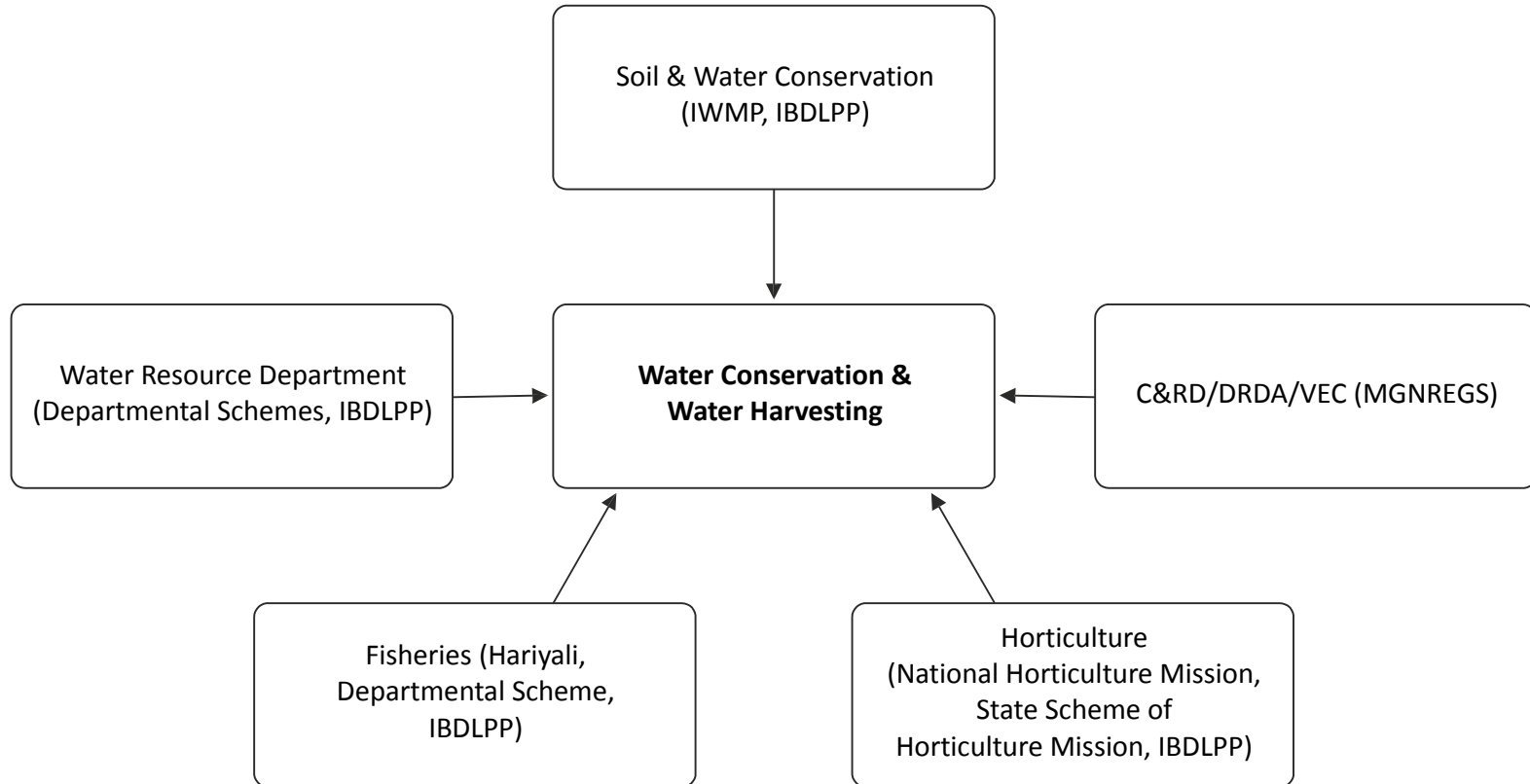
Category of work	Type of works	Name of Line Departments / Boards / Institutions	Schemes	Roles & activities of Line Departments / Boards / Institutions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision for providing water pumps for major depression areas. - Excavation and removal of spoils and debris 			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Survey and monitoring of convergent project and MGNREGS project in general 3. Technical support in preparation of estimates 4. Provide planting material. 5. Expansion of irrigated agriculture, efficient use of irrigation water for agri-farming <p><u>Horticulture:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training for Horticulture plantations 2. Providing inputs / parameters for generation of estimates 3. Supply of samplings / seeds for plantation 4. Providing irrigation to Horti-crops.
Rural connectivity to provide all-weather access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction of village link roads - Construction of village approach roads 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. C&RD/DRDA/VEC 2. PWD(Roads) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MGNREGS 2. PMGSY 3. BRGF 	<p><u>VEC:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification of work 2. Provision of labor 3. Maintenance of Muster Rolls on the work site <p><u>PWD (Roads):</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Black topping of MGNREGS roads 2. Arterial roads of PMGSY roads built by MGNREGS for inter / intra village connectivity 3. Coordination with PWD roads for list of PMGSY roads for connectivity mapping of the district by DLCC/BLCC/VEC.
Watershed related works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Construction of contour trench, contour bunds, boulder check, farm bunding, gabion structures, underground dykes, earthen dams, stop dams etc for checking the velocity of run-off and reducing soil erosion 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. C&RD/DRDA/VEC 2. Soil and Water Conservation 3. Agriculture 4. Horticulture 5. Water Resources Department 6. Fisheries 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MGNREGS 2. IWMP 3. (a) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) (b) National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRRA) 	<p><u>VEC:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provision of labor 2. Identification of works 3. Rejuvenation of springs <p><u>Soil and Water Conservation:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training of land holding activities to the VEC functionaries.

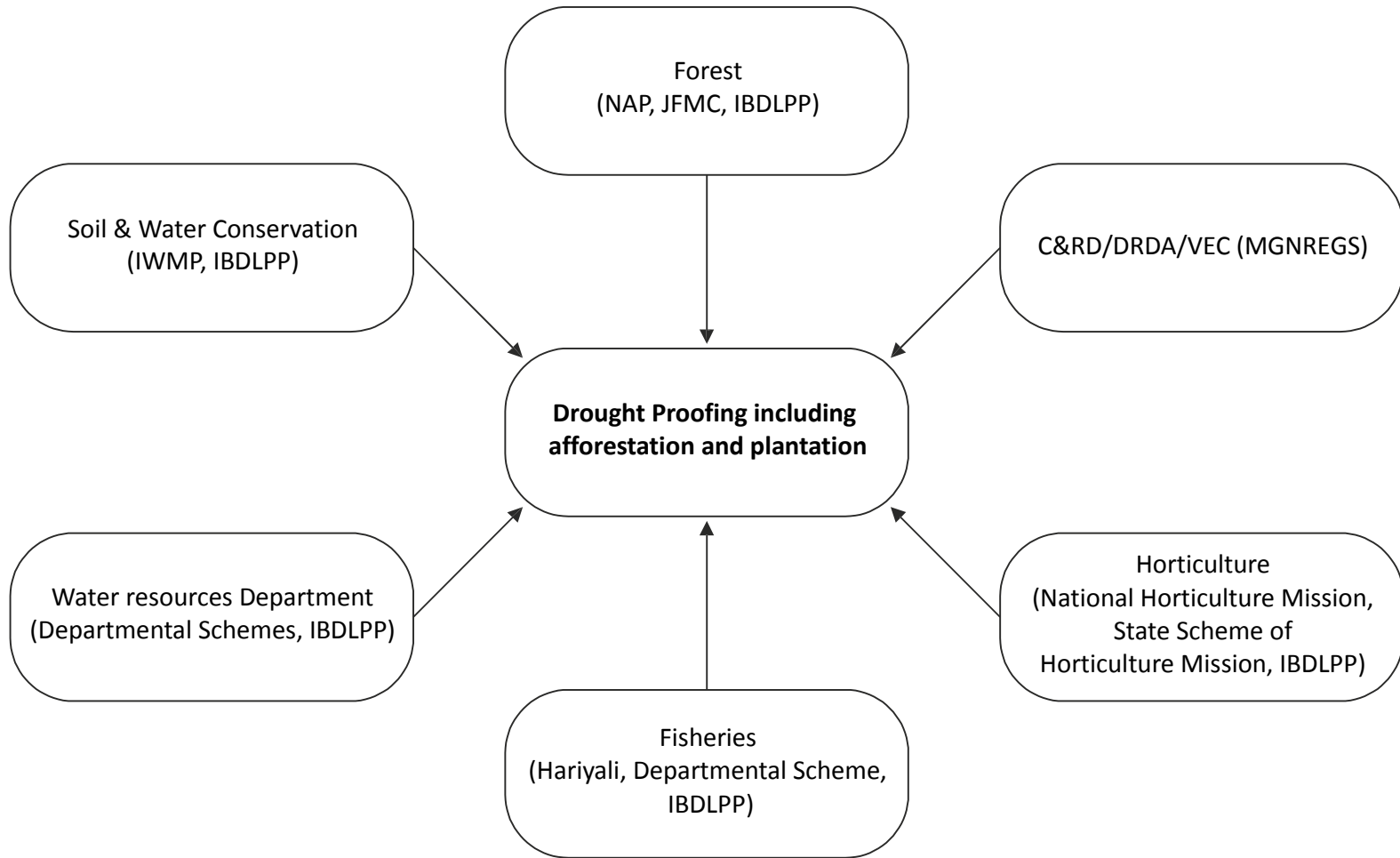
Category of work	Type of works	Name of Line Departments / Boards / Institutions	Schemes	Roles & activities of Line Departments / Boards / Institutions
			(c) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) 4. (a) National Horticulture Mission (b) State Schemes of Horticulture Department 5. Schemes of Department of Water Resources 6. (a) Hariyali (b) Departmental Schemes	2. Training and awareness raising on Watershed Related Works 3. Technical support in preparation of estimates <u>Agriculture:</u> 1. Training 2. Survey and monitoring of convergent project and MGNREGS project in general 3. Technical support in preparation of estimates 4. Provide planting material. <u>Horticulture:</u> 1. Training for Horticulture plantations 2. Providing inputs / parameters for generation of estimates 3. Supply of samplings / seeds for plantation <u>Department of Water Resources:</u> 1. Rejuvenation of springs. 2. Rejuvenation and conservation of traditional water bodies <u>Fisheries:</u> 1. Identification of Job Card holders as beneficiaries. 2. Furnishing of sample estimates for fishery ponds/ dug-out pond.
Agricultural related works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nadep Composting - Vermi-composting - Sanjeevak pit 	1. C&RD/DRDA/VEC 2. Agriculture 3. Horticulture	1. MGNREGS 2. (a) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) (b) National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA) (c) National Food Security Mission (NFSM) 3. (a) National Horticulture Mission (b) State Schemes of Horticulture Department	<u>VEC:</u> 1. Identification of beneficiaries 2. Provision of labor 3. Maintenance of Muster Rolls on the work site <u>Agriculture:</u> 1. Site selection of VEC areas for schemes 2. Training 3. Survey and monitoring of convergent project and MGNREGS project in general

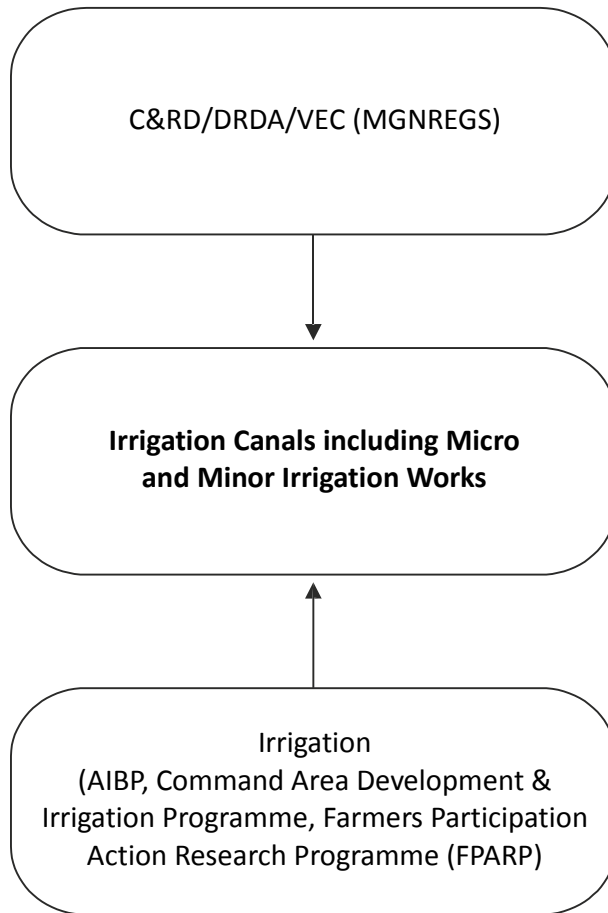
Category of work	Type of works	Name of Line Departments / Boards / Institutions	Schemes	Roles & activities of Line Departments / Boards / Institutions
				4. Technical support in preparation of estimates. <u>Horticulture:</u> 1. Training for Horticulture plantations 2. Providing inputs / parameters for generation of estimates 3. Supply of samplings / seeds for plantation 4. For Meghalaya focus on orange / pine apple / banana / bamboo / betelnut / arecanut / anthurium plantation
Livestock related works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poultry shelter - Goat shelter - Pucca floor, urine tank and fodder trough for cattle. - Azolla (nutritional supplement for cattle) pit 	1. C&RD/DRDA/VEC 2. Veterinary	1. MGNREGS 2. (a) Poultry development (b) Assistance for feed and fodder development (c) Sheep and Goat Development (d) Cattle development (e) IBDLPP (Livestock Mission)	<u>VEC:</u> 1. Identification of beneficiaries 2. Provision of labor 3. Identification of work and work-site. 4. Maintenance of Muster rolls on the work site <u>Veterinary:</u> 1. Training and awareness raising. 2. Survey and monitoring 3. Promote piggery, duckery, poultry and cattle development.
Fisheries related works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Digging and landscaping of water bed to suit fish production - Protecting spill ways - Provision of small fish nursery ponds 	1. C&RD/DRDA/VEC 2. Fisheries	1. MGNREGS 2. (a) Hariyali (b) Departmental Scheme (c) IBDLPP 3. BRGF	<u>VEC:</u> 1. Provision of labor 2. Identification of works 3. Construction of different types of ponds like dug-out ponds, farm ponds, village ponds etc for conservation and harvesting of rain water. <u>Fisheries:</u> 1. Identification of Job Card holders as beneficiaries. 2. Furnishing of sample estimates for fishery ponds/ dug-out ponds 3. Training of Fish Farmers on fish culture and rearing of fingerlings

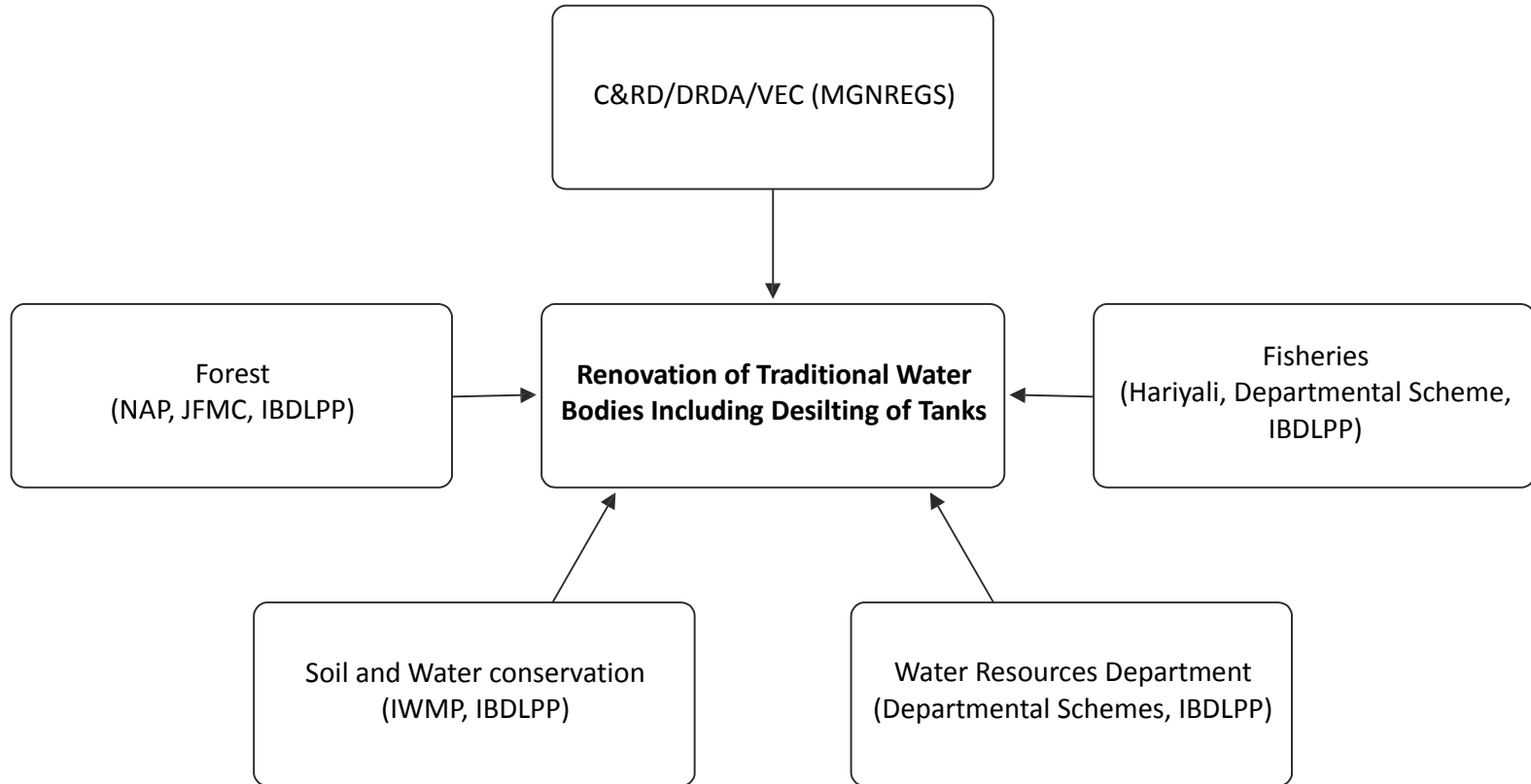
Category of work	Type of works	Name of Line Departments / Boards / Institutions	Schemes	Roles & activities of Line Departments / Boards / Institutions
				4. Organizing fish melas to serve as awareness campaigns for MGNREGS fish farmers 5. Arrange fingerlings 6. Promotion of fishery development.
Rural Drinking Water related works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Soak pits - Recharge pits 	1. C&RD/DRDA/VEC 2. PHE	1. MGNREGS 2. (a) Rural Water Supply Programme (b) NRDWP (c) IBDLPP (Water Mission) 3. BRGF	<u>VEC:</u> 1. Identification of work 2. Provision of labor 3. Maintenance of Muster Rolls on the work site <u>PHE:</u> 1. Training and awareness raising. 2. Survey and monitoring 3. Supply of quality and quantity drinking water.
Rural Sanitation related works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Individual household latrines - School toilets Units - Anganwadi toilets - Solid Waste Disposal pits like Compost pits and (ii) Liquid Waste Disposal pits like low cost drainage, soakage channels / pits and stabilization ponds. 	1. C&RD/DRDA/VEC 2. PHE 3. SCSTE	1. MGNREGS 2. TSC 3. BRGF	<u>VEC:</u> 1. Identification of work 2. Provision of labor 3. Identification of beneficiaries 4. Maintenance of muster rolls on the work site <u>PHE:</u> 1. Training and awareness raising. 2. Survey and monitoring <u>SCSTE:</u> 1. Identification of low cost technology 2. Training and awareness raising
Flood Management related works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deepening and repair of flood channels 	1. C&RD/DRDA/VEC 2. Soil and Water Conservation 3. Forest 4. Agriculture 5. Horticulture 6. Disaster Management	1. MGNREGS 2. IWMP 3. (a) National Afforestation Programme (NAP) 4. (a) Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) (b) National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA)	<u>VEC:</u> 1. Identification of Work and Work Sites 2. Provision of labor 3. Maintenance of Muster Rolls on the work site <u>Soil & Water Conservation:</u> 1. Soil testing / inspection for verifying sustainability of soil for cropping and plantations.

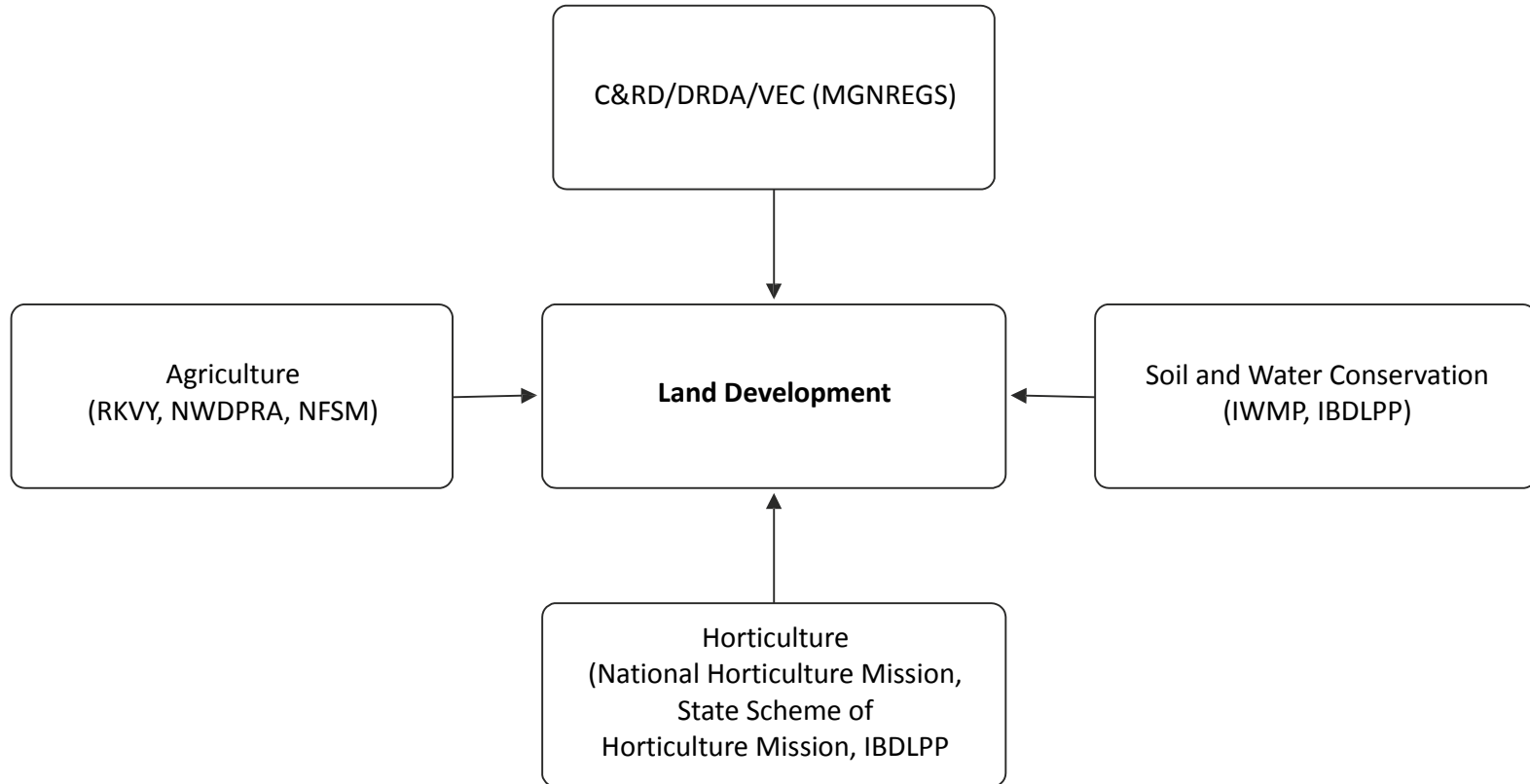
Category of work	Type of works	Name of Line Departments / Boards / Institutions	Schemes	Roles & activities of Line Departments / Boards / Institutions
			5. (a) National Horticulture Mission (b) State Schemes of Horticulture Department 6. (a) The Disaster Risk Reduction Project (b) Flood Management Programme	2. Creation and rejuvenation of traditional water bodies. 3. Training and awareness raising. <u>Forest:</u> 1. Technical support, advice and arranging of planting materials for plantation of trees for NAP. 2. Rejuvenate jhum cultivated areas (major problem of NE Areas) 3. Training and awareness raising 4. Monitoring and Evaluation <u>Agriculture:</u> 1. Training 2. Survey and monitoring of convergent project and MGNREGS project in general 3. Technical support in preparation of estimates 4. Provide planting material. <u>Horticulture:</u> 1. Training for Horticulture plantations 2. Providing inputs / parameters for generation of estimates 3. Supply of samplings / seeds for plantation <u>Disaster Management:</u> 1. Awareness programme 2. Capacity building 3. Strengthening of disaster managements institutions 4. Technical support
Irrigation Command related works	Rehabilitation of minors, sub-minors and field channels	1. C&RD/DRDA/VEC 2. Irrigation	1. MGNREGS 2. (a) AIBP (b) Command Area Development & Irrigation Programme (c) Farmers Participation Action Research Programme (FPARP) 3. BRGF	<u>VEC:</u> 1. Identification of work 2. Provision of labor 3. Maintenance of Muster rolls on the work site <u>Irrigation:</u> 1. Non permissible works under AIBP to be taken up by MGNREGS. 2. Value addition by MGNREGS projects in the command area / catchment area

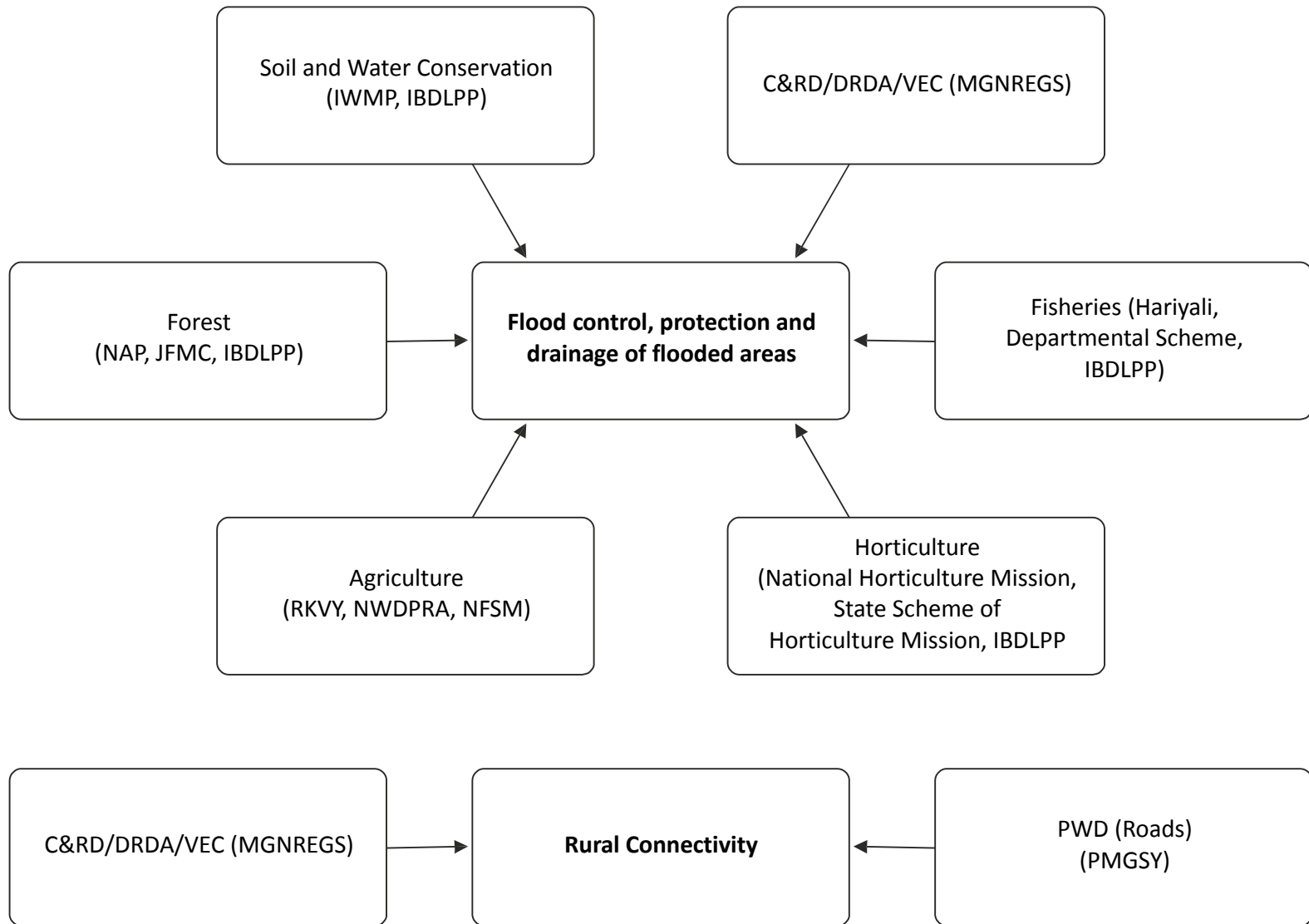


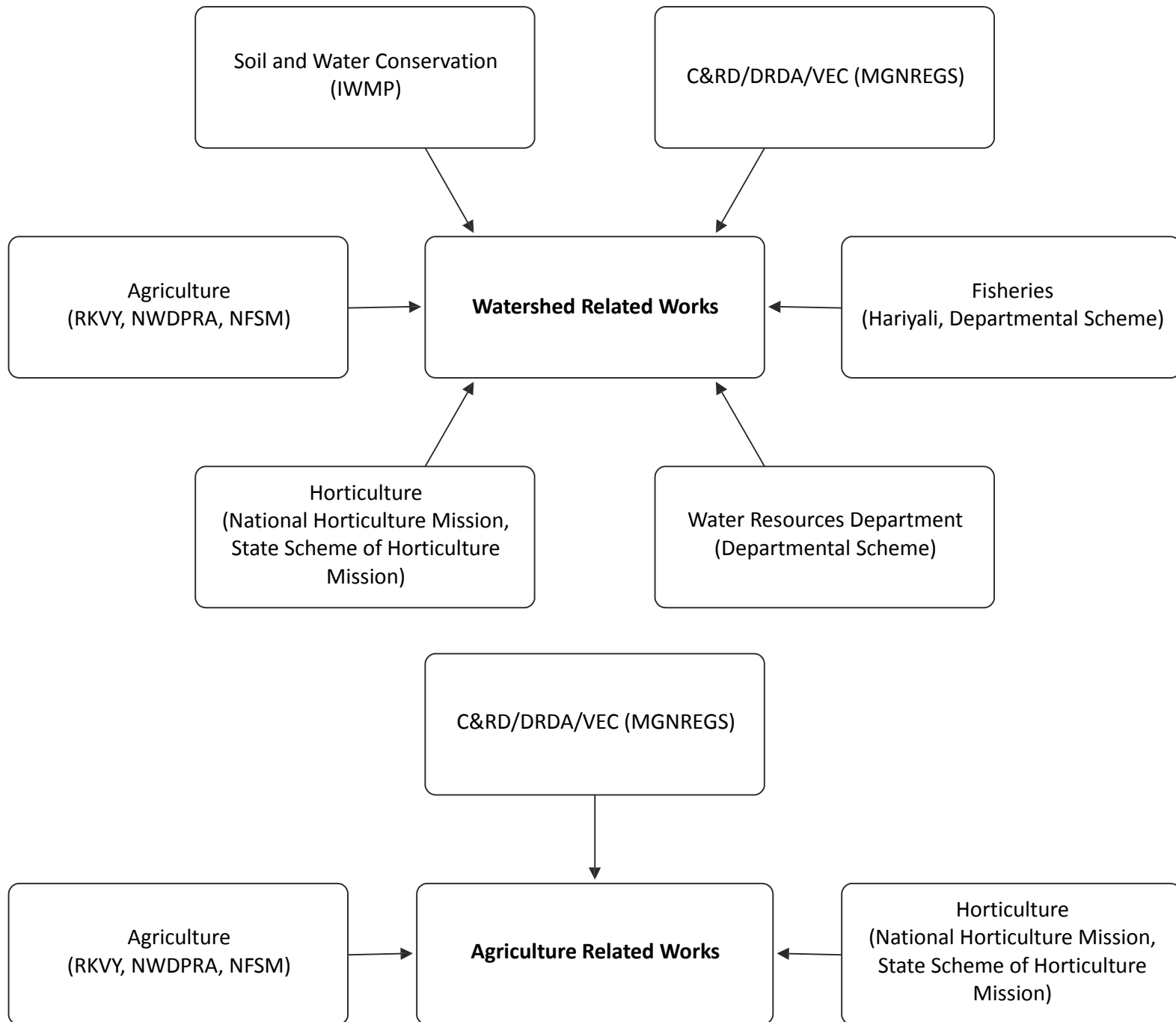


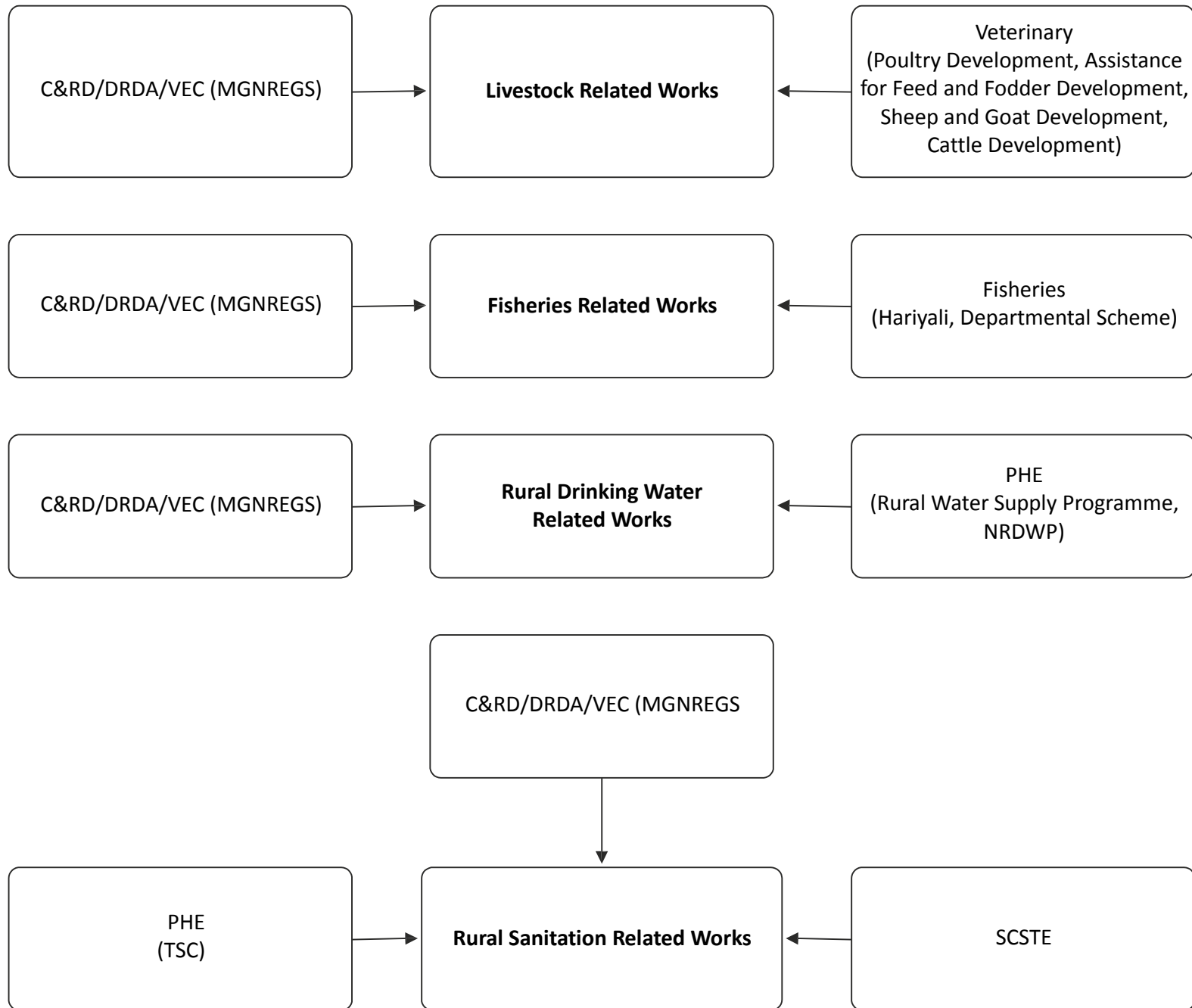


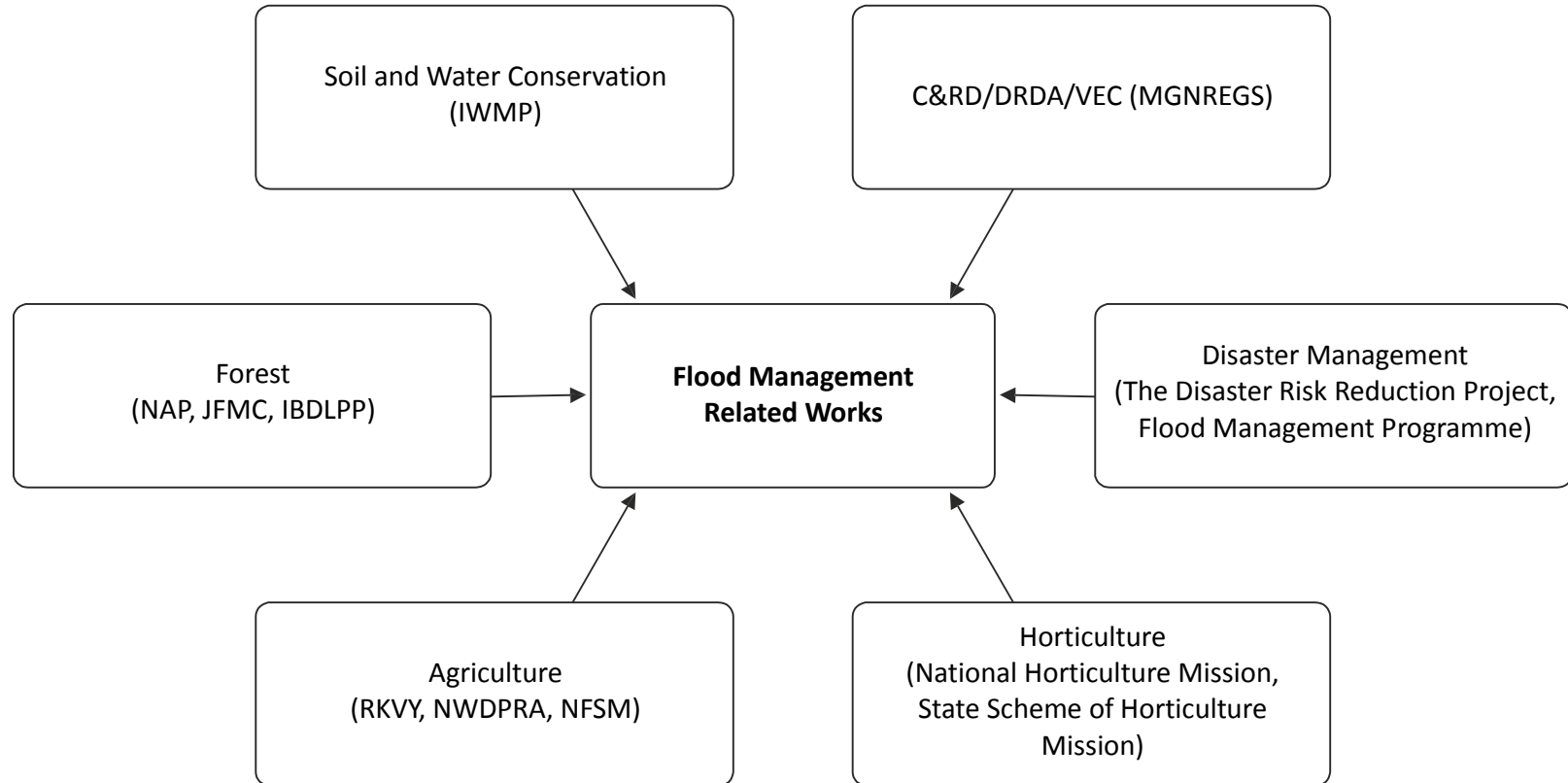












No. M. 13016/1/07-Trg. Vol. II

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY
OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT**New Delhi
23rd December 2008

To
The Chief Secretaries
All States

Subject: Providing technological inputs to the schemes of Ministry of Rural Development by Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) and its field institutions like KVKs, etc. - Application in Pilot Districts.

Sir/madam,

1. The Ministry of Rural Development implements various schemes for employment generation and alleviation of rural poverty and infrastructure development in the rural areas. The major schemes being implemented by the Ministry are the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) and the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY). The NREGS is a wage employment programme for providing livelihood security in the rural areas of the country by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to households whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual labour. On the other hand, the SGSY programme is a holistic self-employment scheme aiming at bringing the rural Below the Poverty Line (BPL) families above poverty line by ensuring appreciable increase in income on a sustainable basis through the formation of BPL- based Self-help Groups (SHGs) and providing income generating assets. While NREGS is being implemented by the Panchayati Raj Institutions, the SGSY Scheme is implemented through District Rural Development Agencies. It has, however, been noted that the Panchayati Raj Institutions and District Rural Development Agencies(DRDAs) often suffer from inadequate scientific and technical inputs during planning and implementation of these schemes.
2. After a series of high level interface meetings held between Ministry of Rural Development and Indian Council of Agricultural research (ICAR), it has been decided that appropriate technological backstopping to the schemes of NREGS and SGSY would be provided by the Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) of ICAR at the ground level leading to sustainable development in the rural areas. The KVKs have developed appropriate technologies for on-farm and off-farm activities. Initially, 50 districts have been identified on a pilot basis for technological interventions by KVKs based on the requirements of the districts. The list of selected districts and technologies is given at Annexure-A. The KVKs will also organize orientation programmes for the stakeholders and join hands with the rural development programme functionaries in creating demonstrations and entrepreneurship opportunities avoiding duplication.
3. Detailed common guidelines for application of technologies developed by ICAR to NREGA and SGSY schemes are being issued separately. It is made clear, however, that these instructions are meant to

harmonize the existing instructions and not to supersede the existing instructions with a view to ensuring application of appropriate technologies developed by ICAR and its KVKs under the NREGA and SGSY schemes of Ministry of Rural Development.

It is requested that necessary instructions may be issued to all the concerned officials for successfully implementing these guidelines by providing technological inputs to the schemes of Rural Development in the pilot districts.

Yours faithfully

(Dr. Rita Sharma)
Secretary
Department of Rural Development

(Dr. Mangala Rai)
Secretary
Department of Agricultural
Research and Education (DARE)

1. **NREGA: Need for Convergence:**

For improving the quality of works planning and execution, it is proposed to initiate pilot projects of convergence between NREGA and ICAR. Area-specific problem analysis and appropriate technology solutions have been mapped by ICAR. These provide a rational database for preparing a plan under NREGA so that the choice of works is guided not just by the expediency of immediate employment provisioning but by the logic of sustainable natural resource development as well. ICAR is also a repository of appropriate technologies that can provide the technical norms and designs for works selected under NREGA. Since the knowledge base of ICAR comprises a range of technologies from basic natural resource management to income generation, it enables a holistic project approach whereby it is possible to conceptualize the works under NREGA as projects for not just natural resource management but also for strengthening livelihood resource management.

2. **Strategies for NREGA (MoRD) & ICAR (MoA) Convergence:**

Select districts have been identified for pilot projects of convergence of NREGA works with the technical expertise of Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) have a knowledge base of appropriate technologies that can be infused into NREGA works.

The process of convergence with ICAR may begin only with those areas of natural resource management where the KVKs have developed technical expertise. The technical expertise of the KVKs may be used for the following purposes:

- (A) Choice of appropriate work in a particular area (at the planning stage)
- (B) Quality enhancing technologies/technical support (at the design and execution stages)
 - (i) Technical inputs in execution of works selected under NERGA
 - (ii) Inclusion of appropriate technology norms in the choice of works as part of ongoing planning process for the Shelf of Projects for the year 2009-10 for NERGA
- (C) Value adding activities on NREGA work. (after completion of the NRREGA work)
 - (i) Value addition through field demonstrations on individual land holdings taken up for development under NREGA.
 - (ii) Linkage of assets developed under NERGA with income generation activities under Swarnjayanti Gram SwarozgarYojana (SGSY) with appropriate processing technologies from ICAR.
- (D) Augmenting capacity Training of technical staff recruited under NREGA, specially at the block levels as they can then act as valuable technical resource support group at the village level where works are planned and executed
- (E) Sharing resources for communication, monitoring and evaluation

(A) Appropriate choice of work in a particular area (at the planning stage):

Since the selection of works is done through a decentralized process, the DPC (District Programme Co-ordinator) will ensure that the works selected are feasible, and that the geo-physical attributes of a particular area justify the particular strategies recommended by the Gram Sabha / Gram Panchayat / Intermediate Panchayat / Zilla Parishad. For this purpose, the knowledge database of KVKs will be used for enabling the selection of appropriate works. If the Shelf of Projects for this year has been made and the plan for the next year is under formulation and if the KVK's database of area specific problem analysis and feasible solutions is available, it will be used for technical database indicates that the choice of certain work is not proper, then a discussion may be initiated with the concerned GP / IP / ZP to suggest alternatives and rectify.

(B) Quality Enhancing Technologies / Technical supports (At the design / Implementation Stage):

The concern for quality is central to NREGA works. KVKs may provide appropriate technologies for NREGA Works.

- (i) Once it has been ascertained that the works selected and the location appropriate, their technical design will be developed with the assistance of the KVKs to ensure quality.
- (ii) In case of work already under execution, resource support of KVKs may be availed of to ascertain that the works meet the required technical norms. Where necessary, modifications may be affected in the existing design to ensure that the works selected meet techno-feasible norms.

An illustrative list of Natural Resource Management (NRM) activities where the expertise of KVKs can be used in conjunction with the choice of works under NREGA is indicated below:

(i) Water Conservation:

- Embankment type water harvesting
- Farm ponds

- (ii) **Monitoring and Evaluation:** KVKs / Agriculture Universities may be involved in technical appraisals of select convergence pilots taken up with ICAR.

3. Operational steps for convergence will include the following:

- (i) ICAR will identify the resource institution(s) for each district. The list at Annexure-C indicates the institutions identified.
- (ii) The DPC will constitute a small group at the district level with representatives of the resource institution(s) and also of District Rural Development Agency, personnel responsible for SGSY.
- (iii) ICAR database of natural resource mapping for that district will be shared with the group. The Shelf of Projects formulated under NREGA will be scrutinized against the NRM database to assess the feasibility of works selected / to be selected.

- (iv) List of works taken up on individual land will be shared with KVKs.
- (v) KVKs will indicate appropriate activities/technologies for each work for value addition
- (vi) KVKs will also take up its front line demonstrations on such land.
- (vii) Training plan for NREG personnel will be drawn up and implemented.
- (viii) Income generating activities with the help of SGSY and processing technologies from KVKs will be introduced by organizing NREG workers around the primary NREG activity.
- (ix) Baseline assessment, concurrent appraisal and documentation of pilots will be taken up by KVKs.

4. Deliverables:

- (i) Infusion of quality technology from ICAR makes NREGA works acquire the features of physically durable asset
- (ii) Dissemination and demonstration of ICAR value added technologies on land developed under NREGA
- (iii) NREGA workers may be organized into Self Help Groups(SHG) with access to additional fund/ training for income generation activities

5. Database for convergence pilots under NREGA (District level):

Sl. No.	Activity	Description
A.	Type of NREGA Work (Eg. Water Conservation/ Rural Connectivity)	
1.	Name of the activity selected for convergence (Eg. Farm pond, check bunding)	
2.	Number of NREGA works identified for convergence	
3.	Location of the work	
	(a) Blocks (Number):	
	(b) Gram Panchayats (Number):	
4.	Name of the implementing Agency	
5.	Cost of Scheme Under NREGA Wage Cost: Material Cost:	
B.	Name of the Programmes identified for Convergence	
1.	Name of Organizations / Agencies implementing the programme	
2.	List of Activities identified for convergence	

C.	Activity	Type	Number of works taken up	Cost
	(a) NREGA projects designed with technical assistance from KVKs			
	(b) NREGA projects using KVKs technologies			
	(c) Field demonstrations by KVKs on NREGA works			
	(d) Organizing NREGA workers into SHGs			
	(e) Skill development of NREGA workers under SGSY			
	(f) Linking economic activities with NREGA projects			
	(g) NREGA project on both KVKs technology and SGSY activities			
	(h) Training of NREGA technical staff by KVKs			
D.	Total Cost of Convergence			
	Programme Name		Cost	
	(a)			
	(b)			
	(c)			
	(d)			
E.	Total time period for convergence			
	(a) Start Date			
	(b) End Date			

Note: The activities & programmes may be increased by inserting additional rows.

Joint Convergence Guidelines: Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) and ICAR

1. Need for Convergence:

Essential key processes of Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) include social mobilization of rural poor into Self Help Groups; setting up of micro-enterprises by selection of key economic activities depending on available resources, occupational skills, appropriate technology and ready markets; training & capacity building of SHGs in appropriate technology; financial assistance through a mix of bank credit & Government. Subsidy, infrastructure, technology and marketing support with forward & backward linkages. SGSY envisages providing credit-cum subsidy for various income generating activities of Self Help Groups (SHGs) including those related to irrigation and land development, horticulture, animal husbandry and dairy development, fisheries, village and agro-based industries, handicrafts and handlooms.

The implementation of SGSY with emphasis on technology induced livelihood development for sustainability is often constrained by lack of awareness about available & latest technologies, absence of professionals at field level to provide technical support, lack of professional advice in preparation of projects especially Special Projects under SGSY and absence of marketing support-backward & forward linkages. The success of programme is therefore dependent on skill-development and technological support to the people in formulating the projects for sustainable micro-enterprises.

Under the SGSY, there are over 30 lakhs SHGs formed so far. More than 60% of rural BPL households directly or indirectly depend on agriculture/horticulture/ animal husbandry/dairy based activities etc. for their livelihood. ICAR has developed technologies in the above field for increasing productivity, value addition, packaging and marketing of products. The extension network of ICAR may provide valuable inputs in extension of the latest technologies to the rural poor and SHGs, thereby enhancing their income.

The SGSY guidelines already have the provisions for skill-development and technology support for the SHGs and individual Swarojgaris. KVKs may help in developing training programmes for the Swarojgaris and SHGs for skill development so that they are sensitized to take up the projects for which technologies have been demonstrated by the KVKs.

2. ICAR- SGSY convergence model:

A. Convergence between NREGS and SGSY:

NREGS is a wage employment programme with a focus on development of natural resources and creation of community and livelihood assets, whereas SGSY is a self-employment programme with a focus on individual household/ SHGs. But in both the programmes, the point of confluence is the household of the self-employed or the wage worker. So the convergence between the two programmes can be achieved in the following manner:

- (i) SGSY -SHGs are the basis for the social mobilization of the poor, therefore, they can have crucial role in NREGA planning. SHGs can influence the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to prepare area based development plans including NREGA works.

- (ii) SHGs can be involved in planning of works at household level on SC/ST land
- (iii) The SHGs and their federations may be involved in distribution of NREGA Job Cards. They can also ensure that the very poor households are issued NREGA Job Cards
- (iv) SHGs can be used to generate awareness about NREGA works
- (v) SHGs should be involved in supervision of works under NREGA and ensuring quality
- (vi) Assets created under NREGA can be used for further value addition by providing loan under SGSY
- (vii) In NREGA, the payment of wages to beneficiaries is done through bank accounts opened in the name of beneficiaries. This may likely to generate some savings which may provide financial cushion for granting loans by the banks under SGSY

B. **Convergence with ICAR:**

Once synergies are developed between NREGA & SGSY, next step will be convergence with ICAR.

This may involve:

- (i) **Identification of key activities:** The activities under SGSY are supposed to be identified based on the local resources, the aptitude as well as the skill of the people and availability of ready markets for the products. The selection of right kind of activities is key to success of the SGSY. The technological input provided by KVKs may help in enhanced productivity, reduced cost of production and better management of risks and thereby increasing the viability of the project/enterprise. Some of the activities for which KVKs can provide technological inputs indicated below:

Crop husbandry:

- Improved crop production technology
- Inter cropping
- Integrated crop management
- Integrated pest management
- Seed production & marketing
- Crop pollination and commercial bee-keeping
- Mass production of bio-control agent
- Organic farming technologies

Horticulture:

- Improved varieties of fruits & vegetables
- High density plantation for guava, papaya & pine apple

- Rejuvenation technologies for orchards
- Micro propagation technologies
- Bio fertilizers
- Bio control agents
- Post harvest management and value addition from horticulture produce, patents.
- Horticulture machinery
- Horticulture diversification including Medicinal & aromatic plants, spices, flowers etc.

Animal husbandry:

- Improved breeds
- Feed block for livestock
- Animal disease diagnostic kits
- Detection of adulteration in milk
- Chicken meat products
- Preservation of eggs
- Value added products of milk and meat

Fisheries:

- Inland fishery, fresh water aqua-culture
- Cold water fishery
- Coastal aqua-culture
- Ornamental fish farming
- Integrated fish farming
- Value added fish products

Agricultural engineering:

- Technologies for resources conservation
- Improved grain mills
- Agro-processing centers
- Lac based diversified products
- Cotton processing & Jute fibers

- **Renewable energy applications**

- (ii) **Preparation of project reports:** For each key activity, there should be a project report indicating various elements such as training, credit, technology, infrastructures and marketing. KVKs may provide professional advice in preparation of projects.
- (iii) **Training & skill development:** While developing the project profiles for the identified key activities, it is to be ascertained whether the person identified for assistance possesses minimum skill requirement in terms of both technical and managerial skills. KVKs may assist in ascertaining the training needs of the Swarojgaris. For the identified activities, Swarojgaris who need additional skill development / up-gradation of skills appropriate training may be identified and suitable training programme can be organized with the help of KVKs.
- (iv) **Exposure visits / field demonstrations:** KVKs and DRDA may organize the exposure visits and field demonstrations for the SHGs in the latest technologies developed by KVKs in various fields such as crop husbandry, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries so that the SHGs are properly sensitized regarding the benefits of the latest technologies.
- (v) **Value addition for SHG products:** The ICAR has developed technologies for processing and value addition of various products. The KVKs may assist DRDA in organizing training and demonstration for the processing, value addition and packaging of agro based and animal husbandry products, so that its marketability can be enhanced.
- (vi) **Preparation of special projects:** DRDA may involve KVKs to prepare Special Projects for income generation and skill development depending upon the available technologies and potential in the area.

C. Operational Steps:

- (i) The DRDA will constitute a small group at the District level with the representatives of the resource institution i.e KVKs and the personnel responsible for implementation of SGSY and NREGA.
- (ii) The information about SHG profile and database of ICAR regarding technology for the districts will be shared with the group.
- (iii) The above group will be scrutinize the activities identified by the Block level SGSY committee and give its professional advice on each activity.
- (iv) The project report prepared for a particular activity will be scrutinized to assess the feasibility of the project selected.
- (v) KVK will indicate appropriate technologies for each work and also for value addition of the products.
- (vi) KVK will organize the demonstration / exposure visit to the SHGs regarding its technologies.

- D. **Monitoring of implementation:** SGSY is a process oriented scheme and therefore, the SHGs require assistance and guidance and handholding at various stages. Once the SHGs / Swarojgaris are trained in particular activities, it is to be ensured that he / she carries over it successfully in sustainable manner for income generation, to bring him above poverty line. KVKs may assist in monitoring of the implementation of sample projects of SHGs for its success. The Block level and District level SGSY committee may monitor the progress and implementation of the pilot project regularly.
- E. **Database for convergence under SGSY at District Level:** SGSY is in the process of developing comprehensive database / MIS at SHG level. The database of SHGs may be shared with KVKs for their guidance and technological inputs.
3. Form on it going the outcome of the pilot project of convergence and future expansion of the programme, following information may be maintained at District level

Sl. No.	Name of Activity	Description
1.	Type of SGSY Activity (animal husbandry, dairy)	
2.	The projects where professional advice of KVKs obtained	
3.	Special Projects where professional advice of KVKs obtained	
4.	Name of the technology provided by KVKs	
5.	Number of SHGs identified for convergence	
6.	Number of individual Swarojgaris identified for convergence	
7.	Number of SHGs trained with the help of KVKs	
8.	Number of individual swarojgaris trained with the help of KVKs	
9.	Number of SHGs trained by KVKs that availed SGSY loan	
10.	Number of individual swarojgaris trained by KVKs that availed SGSY Loan	
11.	Number of SGSY beneficiaries undertaken for field demonstration of technology by KVKs.	
12.	Number of staff implementing SGSY (trained)	
13.	Number of assisted SHGs taking up economic activities	

Sl. No.	State	Districts	Available Technologies
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Karimnagar	Fishery, production of seeds, vermicompost production and management of backyard poultry
		Kurnool	Production of seeds, vermicompost, biopesticides and biofertilizers
		Nalgonda	Production of seeds, sericulture and vermicompost
		Chittoor	Production of seeds, sericulture, vermicompost, aromatic & medicinal plants, and protective cultivation
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Pumpumpre	Integrated farming system, post-harvest technology, and improved rearing practices of mithun, piggery, and poultry
3.	Assam	Bongaigaon,	Production of seeds and planting material, floriculture, and vermicompost
		North Lakhimpur	Integrated nutrient management, Integrated pest management, livestock farming, and cultivation of aromatic and medicinal plant
4.	Bihar	Vaishali	Village seeds production, vegetable seed production, organic farming and banana fibre extraction
		Muzaffarpur	Bee keeping, village seeds production, organic farming, and farm tools and implements
		Gopalganj	Village seeds production, vermicompost, crop diversification with horticultural crops
		Saran	Village seeds production, cultivation of medicinal plant and vermicompost
5.	Chhattisgarh	Surguja	Production of seeds, nursery management, rain water harvesting, bee-keeping, vermicompost and mushroom.
		Bastar	Composite fish farming, maize seed production, nursery management, watershed management, bee-keeping, vermicompost and mushroom
6.	Gujarat	Dahod	Rainwater harvesting, drip-irrigation, vermicompost, buffalo rearing, crop production and management of soybean, maize, paddy, arhar and gram), and poultry
		Dang	Vermicompost, micro-irrigation, crop production and management of paddy, ragi, wheat and sunhemp, improved rearing practices of goat and cow, poultry, cultivation of mango and cashewnut, and nursery of vegetables and mango

Sl. No.	State	Districts	Available Technologies
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Kangra	Vegetable production under poly house condition specially crops like brinjal, tomato and capsicum, mushroom, bee-keeping, and construction of poly lining tanks for rainwater harvesting
		Solan	Nursery raising of vegetables under protected cultivation, production of stone fruits seedlings like apple, peach, plum, apricot, walnut and pecanut, rainwater harvesting, and cultivation of chrysanthemum through forced flowering
8.	Jharkhand	East Singhbhum	Integrated farming system with fish-cum-duck-cum-pig, raising of vegetables seedlings under low cost poly house and soil reclamation
		Chatra	T&D breed of pig, breed improvement in goat, and village seed production (paddy)
		Koderma	Zero tillage, cultivation of Quality Protein Maize (QPM) and cultivation of high yielding varieties in rice
		Gumla	Cultivation of oilseed (niger), mushroom and vermi compost through SHGs and commercial vegetable cultivation
9.	Karnataka	Gulbarga	Organic farming through group approach, and seed production in pulses
		Gadag	Entrepreneurship development through Self Help Groups-local village marketing (Chilli powder and vermicelli (product of rawa), watershed development and vermicompost production
		Hassan	Custom hiring of farm machinery and implements, repair and maintenance of farm machines and implements, seed production in vegetables and piggery
10.	Kerala	Malappuram	Custom hiring of farm machinery and implements, repair and maintenance of farm machinery and implements, composite fish culture and ornamental fish production, dairy and goatery
11.	Madhya Pradesh	Mandla	Sericulture, lac production, goatery, rain water management and nursery management
		Jhabua	Production of seeds, rainwater harvesting, vermicompost, dairy and mushroom

Sl. No.	State	Districts	Available Technologies
12.	Manipur	Thoubal	Integrated pest management, composite fish culture, production of seeds and planting material, livestock farming, and post-harvest technology
13.	Meghalaya	West Garo Hills	Integrated farming system, poultry and piggery farming, off- season vegetable production and bio-control of fruit crops
14.	Maharashtra	Satara	Production of seed, vermicompost, and poultry
		Dhule	Fishery
		Amaravati (Durgapura)	Production of bio-pesticides, biofertilizers, mushroom, and vermicompost, rainwater harvesting, and dairy
		Nandubar	Rainwater harvesting, production of seeds and vermicompost
15.	Orissa	Mayurbhanj	Production of seeds, cultivation of merigold, poultry and vermicompost.
		Ganjam	Production of seed in paddy, dairy, mushroom and vermicompost
16.	Punjab	Hoshiarpur	Horticulture based cropping system (guava, kinnow and ber), entrepreneurship development for rural women through Self Help Groups, mushroom, bee -keeping and dairy
17.	Rajasthan	Ajmer	Rainwater harvesting, protective cultivation, cultivation of arid fruit (ber, amla and pomegramate), production of planting materials of vegetables and fruits, establishment of orchard, azolla production, improved rearing practices of cows, buffalos and goats, and poultry
		Jalore	Seed production of spices, and production of planting material of arid fruits, and agro-forestry
		Dungarpur	Rainwater harvesting, vermicompost, cultivation of arid fruits, improved rearing practices of goat, and cattle, backyard poultry, production of planting materials of vegetable and fruit crops and seeds production
		Hanumangarh	Vermicompost, improved rearing practices of goats, cattle and pigs, poultry, production of planting material of vegetables and fruits, bee-keeping and seed production
		Sikar	Rainwater harvesting, vermicompost, fishery, seed production, nursery raising of arid fruits, and vegetables, improved rearing practices of of goat and cattle

Sl. No.	State	Districts	Available Technologies
18.	Tamil Nadu	Dindigul	Entrepreneurship development through Self Help Groups (organic vegetable production, rural handicraft, value addition in drumstick), production of seeds and planting material and precision farming
		Villupuram	Mushroom production, seeds production in oil seeds and precision farming
19.	Uttar Pradesh	Gonda	Piggery, goatery, cultivation of banana, aonla and mango, and production of seeds & planting material
		Chitrakoot	Fish seed production, seeds production of pulses like lentil, gram and arhar, production of planting material of fruits and agro-forestry species and dairying
		Lalitpur	Seed production of pulses like gram, pea and lentil, composite fish culture and watershed management
		Pratapgarh	Production of broiler, layers and quail, use of zero till and laser leveler, vermiculture and fruit preservation
20.	Uttarakhand	Champawat	Protected cultivation of vegetable (tomato, chilli, cucumber, bitter gourd, capsicum, cabbage and cauliflower), beekeeping, production of vegetable seedlings, production of saplings of fruits like pear and malta, and mushroom
21.	West Bengal	Bankura	Seed production, orchard development, nursery raising of vegetable seedlings, entrepreneurship development in mushroom cultivation and commercial vegetable cultivation through SHGs
		Burdwan	Fishery, entrepreneurship development through SHG, and duckery with khaki campbell
Total		50 Districts	

New Delhi
18th February 2009

To
The Chief Secretaries of States

Subject: Guidelines for Convergence between NREGS and the schemes of the Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR).

Sir/madam,

1. Substantial public investments are being made for strengthening of the rural economy and the livelihood base of the poor, especially the marginalized groups like SC/STs and women. To effectively address the issue of poverty alleviation, there is need to optimize efforts through inter-sectoral approaches.
2. In view of the inter-sectorality of NREGA, the commonality of target area and beneficiary group, planning institutions and processes of most development programmes, the Ministry of Rural Development had constituted a Task Force to explore effective modalities of convergence with NREGA. The Task Force comprised representative from Ministry of Water resources, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Human Resources, Ministry of Women and Child development. The Task Force recommended beginning with select programmes of select Ministries.
3. The Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) has been identified as an important partner to NREGA, as more than 50% of NREGA works relate to water resources sector. A series of high level interface meetings have been held between Ministry of Rural Development and Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) on exploring the Based on these discussions, convergence areas and modalities were identified. Detailed Guideline for convergence between NREGA and MoWR schemes convergence is developed and annexed.
4. These guidelines are meant to optimise synergies between NREGA Schemes of Ministry of Water Resources. They are suggestive in nature and should be used to encourage innovative convergence project at the districts level, enabling a more efficient use of resources.
5. We would request you to convene a meeting of the officers of the Department of Rural Development and Department of Water Resources to discuss these guidelines... This should be by a joint meeting of the districts officer in charge of the NREGA and Water Resources schemes.
6. The districts officers meeting should aim at firming up processes for operationalising the convergence guidelines in a time bound manner. A joint review mechanism under your Chairmanship at the State level

could then facilitate and review the implementation and outcomes of convergence for further improvement.

7. We would appreciate an acknowledgement of this communication and intimation of action initiated.

Yours faithfully

(Dr. Rita Sharma)
Secretary
Department of Rural Development

(Umesh Narayan Panjiar)
Secretary
Ministry of Water Resources

1. **Convergence between NREGA and programmes of MoWR:**

There is a gap between the irrigation potential created and that utilised. Many of the irrigation projects in the country have also been under operation below their potential due to inadequate maintenance, which is one of the important factors for reduced irrigation efficiency at project level. This has resulted in the problem of low efficiency of water usage and low productivity. Increasing trend of water logging, salinity and alkalinity is offsetting the advantages of irrigation by rendering the affected areas unproductive or under-productive. The process of reclamation is far exceeded by an additional area becoming water logged and saline / alkaline. There are seven programme of MoWR being implemented in the country with works similar or complementary to NREGA works. Details may be seen in Annexure-A.

2. **Modalities for Convergence:**

2.1. For integrated development of irrigated area, it is necessary that the project of a village is prepared on Command Area Development approach, integrating all the activities into a project. In this project, the activities allowed under NREGA and those to be covered under schemes of MoWR may be clearly indicated.

2.2. All the works / activities required for the integrated development of the command area will be shown clearly in terms of the size of area / work, estimated cost, and the programme under which these are to be covered, so as to ensure that all the required works / activities have been proposed and there is no duplication. A typical exercise is given at Annexure-B.

2.3. The Command Area proposed for development under NREGA and the area under ongoing programmes of MoWR should be incorporated in the projects separately. However, with every project report, a statement showing different works / activities proposed under different programmes be attached, so that it is ensured that all the required works / activities have been proposed and also there is no duplication.

2.4. Since the District Collector / CEO ZilaParishad are coordinators of programmes at district level related to Agriculture Development, therefore, they should converge all these programmes starting from planning to monitoring, for integrated development of the area.

3. **Works:**

The Water Resources Department should plan, provide technical advice, supervise to ensure quality activities. The list of works completed / taken up will be shared with Department of Water Resources which will indicate appropriate activities / technologies for each work for value addition.

4. **Convergence through works may be affected in any of the following ways:**

- (a) Gap filling through NREGS for similar work under water resources schemes
- (b) Dovetailing inputs into a common project
- (c) Area approach

- (d) Value addition through NREGA works
- (e) Technical support for ensuring quality in planning, selection and execution of NREGA works

4.1. **Gap filling / enhancing scale:**

Under this, permissible works may be converged for gap filling / enhancing scale resources for common needs and inputs.

4.1.1. **Artificial recharge of ground water under the schemes of dug well recharge and ground water management and regulation:**

Artificial recharge of ground water is one of the most efficient ground water management tools for ensuring sustainability of ground water resources. Many areas of the country having limited aquifer storage potential are facing acute problems of over exploitation and depletion of ground water resources. Presently two schemes viz. dug well recharge scheme and Ground Water Management and Regulation are being implemented under Ministry of Water Resources. These programmes may be integrated with NREGA initiatives / projects.

4.1.2. **Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies:**

The Scheme of RRR of Water Bodies includes the comprehensive improvement of selected tank systems, catchment area treatment, command area development and capacity building of stakeholders. There is a provision of ₹ 2750 crore for these works during XI Plan. Under different programmes, the Government of India and the State Governments channelize funds, which can easily meet the requirement of funding some of the components of projects relating to RRR of Water Bodies. However, in order to optimize this investment in a way that can facilitate comprehensive rehabilitation and subsequent management of the water bodies, it is necessary that these partial investments are dovetailed and integrated with investments under NREGS.

The convergence of this project with related activities under NREGA will maximize benefits. Accordingly, common projects may be prepared and implemented.

4.1.3. **Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP):**

This programme is for major, medium and minor irrigation projects and extension, renovation & modernization of irrigation projects which (a) having investment clearance of Planning Commission can be completed in the next four financial years (b) are not receiving any other form of financial assistance. This programme is being implemented throughout the country. Surface minor irrigation Schemes of the states of North East, Hilly states (Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttaranchal) and drought prone and tribal districts are also eligible for assistance under the programme.

Central grant at the rate of 90% of the estimated cost for completion of the project is provided in the special category states, projects in Kalahandi, Bolangir & Koraput districts in Orissa and project benefitting the tribal areas, drought prone and flood prone areas. For major and medium projects in other areas central grant is provided at the rate of 25% of the estimated cost.

The earth works like embankment construction, desilting of canal, minor irrigation schemes can also be taken up under NREGA with close coordination and planning with the project implementing agencies.

4.1.4. **Flood management programme:**

Flood management works like construction / raising and strengthening of embankments, anti-erosion works, drainage development, flood proofing works are being funded by the Ministry of Water Resources under the Flood Management Programme. Smaller schemes costing up to ` . 1 crore involving the labour oriented flood management works, and not covered under this programme can be taken up under NREGA.

4.2. **Dovetailing inputs into a common project:**

4.2.1. **Farmer's Participatory Action Research Programme (FPARP):**

Ministry of Water Resources is implementing this programme at 5,000 sites throughout the country. Under this programme new irrigation technologies developed by various agricultural universities, research institutes, etc. are being demonstrated to farmers as a measure of creating awareness amongst farmers to save water. There are number of technologies where involvement of manpower is of very high magnitude such as construction of Jal Kund, in situ moisture conservation, etc. These programmes can also be taken up under NREGA.

4.3. **Area approach:**

4.3.1. **Command Area Development & Water Management Programme (CAD&WM):**

Command area development and water management programme aims at efficient utilisation of irrigation water for optimizing agricultural productivity and production from irrigated lands in a coordinated manner on a sustainable basis and increasing the pace of tackling the problem of water logging by bringing in newer technologies like sub- surface drainage and bio-drainage under the realm of this programme.

The works allowed under NREGA are such that they cover almost all the activities required for Command Area Development. Planning NREGA works with command area development from outlet of drain of a command area to water source will yield benefits in terms of better utilisation of irrigation potential created, better efficiency of water use, increase in intensity of irrigation, increase in agriculture production and productivity, increase in farmer's income.

Works/activities required under CAD&WM are:

- (i) Renovation and de-silting of existing irrigation tanks and control structures within the irrigated command area.
- (ii) Correction of system deficiencies above outlet up to distributaries of 4.25 cumec (150 cusec) capacity.

- (iii) Construction of field channels
- (iv) Full package On-Farm Development (OFD) Works including field channels, realignment of field boundaries, land leveling / shaping.
- (v) Construction of field, intermediate and link drains
- (vi) Land leveling and shaping
- (vii) Conjunctive use of surface water and ground water- It serves the dual purpose of increasing the area under irrigation on the one hand through supplementing canal water for irrigation and reduces water logging on the other.
- (viii) Reclamation of water logged areas in irrigated commands of CAD Projects.

Out of these activities, three activities at sl. no. (i), (vi) and (vii) have now been deleted from CAD&WM, however, these activities are permitted under NREGA.

The work of Irrigation Canal is also permitted under NREGA. Therefore, under the activity, "Correction of system deficiencies above outlet up to distributaries of 150 cusec capacity", the complete work or the earthwork part can also be taken up under NREGA as a gap filling, wherever required.

Similarly, the work of Irrigation facility, land development, is covered under NREGA. Therefore, these works on the Individual land of SC / ST / BPL / beneficiary of Land Reform and IAY can be carried out under NREGA as a gap filling and on Individual land of other than SC / ST / BPL / beneficiary of Land Reform and IAY can be carried out under CAD&WM.

In view of above, for integrated development of command area, the project of a command area should be prepared by integrating all the activities into a whole project with convergence. Activities allowed under NREGA be planned / covered under NREGA and left over work be covered under programmes of the Ministry of Water Resources.

The convergence has been elaborated in detail at Annexure-B.

4.4. **Value addition:**

The work of Canal plantation may be carried out in the Command area under NREGA as value addition. The work of Canal fair weather road can also be taken up under NREGA.

4.5. **Technical support:**

The technical norms i.e. required survey, planning, design as per Technical Manual being used by the Water Resource department, is to be followed, so that the works are sustainable, productive and economical. For illustration, in Command Area Development and water management programme, planning, designing and specification are to be followed as per the Guidelines / manual of Water Resource Department.

5. **Cost norms:**

Under NREGA, there is neither cost norm for the area nor unit cost for work / activity. However, the unit cost for works / activity in Command areas to be carried out under NREGS will also be as per cost norms / unit

cost under CADWM, AIBP and RRR of Water Bodies of Water Resource Department in the area / local requirement.

6. Execution:

- (i) 50 % of Works under NREGA like desilting of tanks and canals, construction of field channel, field drains which are labor intensive can be executed by the Panchayat with the guidance of District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) of water resource programmes and concerned technical staff of Water Resource Department.
- (ii) 50% work in the command area under NREGA, like correction of system deficiencies above outlet up to distributaries of 150 cusec and construction of intermediate and link drains is assigned to the concerned water user associations. In Water User's Association (WUA), which is constituted in every command area, one member from Panchayat should be including as a member.

In the areas, not covered under CAD&WM project, these works / activities should be assigned to the concerned line department i.e. Water Resource Department.

7. Monitoring:

The Ministries of Water Resources and Rural Development will jointly monitor the implementation of the scheme and ensure concurrent evaluation through quarterly physical and financial reports, inspection visits, meetings with senior officers of the State Governments, workshops for experience sharing, learning and dissemination and impact assessment studies, The social audit of the project(s) should be carried out by the concerned Gram Sabha. The monitoring of the work(s) should be done with the association of the Standing Committee of the Panchayat at the appropriate level. At the village level, the focal point for organization and implementation of the project will be the WUA of command area farmers and other eligible tank users such as fisherman etc. The WUA will play an active role in the planning, implementation, supervision, maintenance of tank systems and other necessary activities. The WUA should report to the Gram Sabha in these matters from time to time. However, for the convergence of different programmes with NREGS the monitoring agency independent of the construction agency will be appropriate. District Programme Coordinator NREGS as well as head of DLIC will monitor all aspects of implementation and convergence and thereby bring about a qualitative improvement in the implementation of the programmes.

8. Post Project Management:

Post project management, for sustainability is very necessary. Therefore, all projects, depending on the nature of works involved in these projects, after completion should be handed over to Water Users' Associations / PRIs / Departments concerned, as the case may be, for their use and related repair and maintenance.

9. Funding will be through NREGA and WR programmes:

Procedure for settlement of accounts, inclusion of projects, establishing coordination at different levels for effective implementation of converged project proposals, details of monitoring and evaluation will be decided subsequently in consultation with concerned State Governments wherein the pilot projects are taken.

Sl. No.	Content	NREGS	Programmes under Water Resource Department						
			Command Area Development & Water Management (CAD&WM)	Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies.	Dug well Recharge Scheme	Ground water management and Regulation Scheme	Flood Control and River management Works	Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP)	Farmer's participation Action Research Programme (FPARP)
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1.	Objective	(i) To enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work (ii) Creation of durable assets and strengthening the livelihood resource base of the rural poor	Efficient utilization of created irrigation potential	To restore and augment storage capacities of water bodies., and also to recover and extend their lost irrigation potential	To recharge ground water	To demonstrate the efficacy of artificial recharge & rain water harvesting techniques	To take up flood management works in an integrated manner.	Major, medium, and minor irrigation projects and extension, renovation & modernization of major and medium irrigation projects	Field demonstration of technologies developed by the institutes which will enhance yield and income per drop of Water
2.	Funding/ subsidy	(i) 100% on unskilled labour and (ii) 75 % of the cost of material and wages for skilled and semi- skilled workers	Funding pattern of 50: 50 between centre and states, state share including 10 % contribution by the beneficiary. on software activities subsidy 100 to 75%	Funding pattern of 25:75 between centre and states for water bodies under domestic support for non-special category states and 90:10 for special category states as well as naxal affected / drought prone / tribal areas. for Externally Aided Programmes (EAP), 75% is loan taken from the world bank And passed on to the concerned states on back to back basis	100% subsidy to marginal & small farmers. 50% subsidy to other farmers	100% funding from Central Government	Special category states- 90:10 between centre and states. Other States- 75:25 between centre and states. For restoration of damaged flood management works-90:10 between centre and states	Central grant 90% to special category states (North- Eastern states, drought prone area, tribal area & flood prone area). 25% to non- special category states	100% funding from MoWR. Expenditure incurred above the approved cost will be borne by the institutes themselves

Sl. No.	Content	NREGS	Programmes under Water Resource Department						
			Command Area Development & Water Management (CAD&WM)	Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies.	Dug well Recharge Scheme	Ground water management and Regulation Scheme	Flood Control and River management Works	Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP)	Farmer's participation Action Research Programme (FPARP)
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
				and is to be repaid by the states. The balance 25% is taken as liability of GoI which is also taken as loan from the World Bank. Central funding in form of grant to the State					
3.	Unit cost/ cost norms	Nil	Correction of system deficiencies above outlet up to distributaries of 150 cusec capacity ` . 4000 per ha. To field drains - ` . 5000 per ha.	` . 40000-45000 per hectare.	Unit cost ` . 3600 to ` . 5700, varying from state to state	As per local requirement	As per local requirement	Project cost based on design and BSR	` . 50,000/- or the approved cost per demonstration whichever is less, limited to 100 demonstrations per institute.
4.	Area coverage	Entire country.	Command areas of Major & Medium Irrigation Project in plain areas and minor irrigation project also in hilly areas.	Water bodies having original irrigation culturable command area of 20 ha. Up to 2000 hectare will be considered under EAPs For scheme under domestic support, the proposals will be for irrigation as well as for non-irrigation	Hard rock areas in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.	Over- exploited / critical blocks, urban areas showing steep decline in GW, drought prone & water scarcity area, coastal areas, sub-mountainous / hilly areas, areas with geogenic contamination of GW.	Entire country	Projects on eligibility criteria	Command areas

Sl. No.	Content	NREGS	Programmes under Water Resource Department						
			Command Area Development & Water Management (CAD&WM)	Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies.	Dug well Recharge Scheme	Ground water management and Regulation Scheme	Flood Control and River management Works	Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP)	Farmer's participation Action Research Programme (FPARP)
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
				tanks. Private owned water bodies not covered.					
5.	Institutional framework	(i) Central Employment Guarantee Council (ii) State Employment Guarantee Council (iii) District Panchayat (iv) Intermediate Panchayat (v) Village Panchayat, Gram Sabha	(i) State Level Committee (SLC) (ii) Water Users Association (WUA)	(i) State Technical Advisory Committee. (STAC) (ii) District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) Chaired by District Collector (DC) (iii) Water Users Association	(i) State Level Steering Committee (SLSC) (ii) District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) Chaired by District Collector (DC)	(i) State level Technical Coordination Committee (SLTCC) (ii) Local Technical Coordination Committee (LTCC) Chaired by District Collector (DC)	(i) STAC, State Flood Control Board. (ii) Water Resources Department	(i) State Level Committee (SLC)	
6.	Convergence	Convergence of NREGA funds with funds from other sources for the creation of durable assets is permissible	The drafted schemes henceforth should provide clear linkages, integration and convergence to such schemes for holistic development	Issues on convergence of the project with related activities under other schemes should be achieved and this aspect should be brought out clearly		The work would be implemented as per guidelines framed under NREGS by the MoRD		Earth works like desilting of canal	

Annexure-B

Name of Command area: _____, Area of the Command, _____, Name of Village: _____, Name of Panchayat/Block/District: _____

Sl. No.	Work/Activity	Kind of Area	Programme Under which Proposed	Year in which Proposed	
				2009-10	2010-11
(i)	Renovation of traditional water bodies/desilting				
	(a) Renovation and de-silting of existing irrigation tanks	Common land/Government land	NREGA		
	(b) Renovation and de-silting of existing irrigation tanks and control structures within the irrigated commands	Common land/Government land	RRR of water bodies/CAD&WM Programme		
(ii)	Irrigation canals including minor irrigation				
	(a) Major, medium, and extension, renovation & modernization irrigation projects (other than earth work and desilting)	Land acquired by the Govt. for construction.	AIBP		
	(b) Major, medium, and extension, renovation & modernization irrigation projects (earth work and desilting)		NREGA/AIBP		
	(c) Minor irrigation schemes		NREGA/AIBP		
	(d) Correction of system deficiencies above outlet up to distributaries of 4.25 cumec (150 cusec) capacity. (Earth work)	--do--	NREGA		
	(e) Correction of system deficiencies above outlet up to distributaries of 4.25 cumec (150 cusec) capacity. (other than earth work)	--do--	CAD&WM Programme		
(iii)	Irrigation facility				
	(a) Survey, planning and designing of OFD works	Complete Command Area	CAD&WM Programme		
	(b) Construction of field channels	Individual land of SC/ST/BPL/beneficiary of LR/IAY	NREGA		
	(c) Construction of field channels	Individual land of other than SC/ST/BPL/beneficiary of LR/IAY	CAD&WM Programme		
(iv)	Ground Water recharge				
	(a) Artificial recharge through Dug well	All lands requiring recharge	NREGA/ Dug well Recharge/ G.W. mgt& Regulation		
(v)	Land Development				
	(a) Full package On- Farm Development (OFD) works including field channels, realignment of field boundaries, land levelling/ shaping	Individual land of SC/ST/BPL/beneficiary of LR/IAY	NREGA		
	(b) Full package OFD works including field channels, realignment of field boundaries, land levelling/ shaping	Individual land of other than SC/ST/BPL/beneficiary of LR/IAY	CAD&WM programme		
	(c) Land levelling and shaping	Individual land of SC/ST/BPL/beneficiary of LR/IAY	NREGA		

Sl. No.	Work/Activity	Kind of Area	Programme Under which Proposed	Year in which Proposed	
				2009-10	2010-11
	(c) Land development	Common land/Government land	NREGA		
(vi)	Flood Control/Drainage in water logged				
	(a) Flood management works like construction/raising and strengthening of embankments, anti erosion works drainage development and flood proofing, etc. (Costing up to 1 crore)	All land requiring works	Flood Management Programme/NREGA		
	(b) Construction of drains.	--do--	NREGA		
	(c) Reclamation of waterlogged areas/drainage	--do--	NREGA/CAD&WM programme		
	(d) Bio-drainage	--do--	NREGA/CAD&WM programme		
	(e) Conjunctive use	Individual land of SC/ST/BPL/beneficiary of LR/IAY	NREGA		
(vii)	Plantation				
	Canal Plantation	Common/Government land	NREGA		
(viii)	Popularisation of New Technological for efficient use of water				
	(a) Demonstration		FPARP		
	(b) In situ moisture conservation works	Command area	NREGA/FPARP		
ix)	Rural connectivity	--do--	NREGA		
		Common land/ forest land/canal road	NREGA		

Sl. No.	MINISTRY	PROGRAMME
1.	A.P.	Karimnagar, Kurnool, Nalgonda, Chittoor, Khammam, Mehboobnagar, Medak
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Pumpumpre, East Siang
3.	Assam	Bongaigaon, Lakhimpur, Darrang, NC Hills
4.	Bihar	Vaishali, Muzaffarpur, Goplaganj, Saran, Gaya, Jamui, Nawada
5.	Chhattisgarh	Surguja, Bastar, Kabirdham, Rajnandgaon, Raipur
6.	Gujarat	Dahod, Dang, Banaskantha, Sabarkantha
7.	H.P.	Kangra, Solan, Mandi, Sirmaur
8.	Jharkhand	East Singhbhum, Chatra, Koderma, Gumla, Palamu, Deoghar, Jamtara
9.	Karnataka	Gulbargh, Gadag, Hassan, Chikmagalur, Kolar, Shimoga
10.	Kerala	Malappuram, Palakkad, Thiruvananthapuram
11.	M.P.	Mandla, Jhabua, Betul, Panna, Devas
12.	Manipur	Thoubal, Churachandpur
13.	Meghalaya	West Garo Hills, Ri-Bhoi
14.	Maharashtra	Satara, Dhule, Amaravati, Nandubar, Akola, Pune, Satara
15.	Orissa	Mayurbhanj, Ganjam, Bolangir, Bargarh
16.	Punjab	Hoshiarpur, Ropar
17.	Rajasthan	Ajmer, Jalore, Dungarpur, Bikaner, Sikar, Kota, Tonk
18.	Tamil Nadu	Dindigul, Villupuram, Kanyakumari, Pudukkottai, Sivaganga
19.	Uttar Pradesh	Gonda, Banda, Lalitpur, Pratapgarh, Allahabad, Chitrakoot, Jalaun, Jhansi, Hardoi
20.	Uttaranchal	Champawat, Nainital, Uttarkashi
21.	West Bengal	Bankura, Bardwan, Birbhum, Purulia

No. J-11019/2/2008-NREGA

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY
OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

New Delhi
19th February 2009

To
The Chief Secretaries
of 21 States (by name)

Subject: Guidelines for Convergence between NREGS and the schemes of the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF).

Sir/Madam,

1. Substantial public investments are being made for strengthening of the rural economy and the livelihood base of the poor, especially the marginalized groups like SC/STs and women. To effectively address the issue of poverty alleviation, there is need to optimize efforts through inter-sectoral approaches.
2. In view of the inter-sectorality of NREGA, the commonality of target area and beneficiary group, planning institutions and processes of most development programmes, the Ministry of Rural Development had constituted a Task Force to explore effective modalities of convergence with NREGA. The Task Force comprised representative from Ministry of Water resources, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Human Resources, Ministry of Women and Child development. The Task Force recommended beginning with select programmes of select Ministries.
3. The Ministry of Environment and Forests which was represented on the Task force was identified as an important partner to NREGA, as more than 8% of NREGA works relate to drought proofing. Apart from the meetings of the Task Force a series of interface meetings held between Department of Rural Development and Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF). Possibilities of convergence between NREGA and the programmes MoEF, MoLR were discussed between the two Ministries and based on these discussions, convergence areas and modalities were identified. Detailed Guideline for convergence between NREGA and MoEF schemes convergence is developed.
4. These instructions are meant to optimise synergies between NREGA Schemes of Ministry of Environment and Forests. They are suggestive in nature and should be used to encourage innovative convergence project at the districts level, enabling a more efficient use of resources. We would request you to convene a meeting of the officers of the two departments to discuss these guidelines. This should be by a joint meeting of the districts officer in charge of the NREGA and Department of Forest schemes. The districts officers meeting should aim at firming up processes for operationalising the convergence guidelines in a time bound manner.

A joint review mechanism under your Chairmanship at the State level could then facilitate and review the implementation and outcomes of convergence for further improvement

5. We would appreciate an acknowledgment of this communication and intimation of action initiated.

Yours faithfully

(Dr. Rita Sharma)
Secretary
Department of Rural Development

(Shri Vijai Sharma)
Secretary
Ministry of Environment and Forests

1. **Convergence between NREGS and National Afforestation Programme (NAP):**

Convergence between NREGA and National Afforestation Programme is mutually beneficial. Ministry of Environment and Forests has the task of achieving one third of the land area under forest and tree plantation as envisaged in the National Forest Policy, 1988. This cannot be accomplished by the MoEF alone due to the volume of manpower and resources required for the task. Convergence with NREGS will provide additional resources. Operational guidelines of NAP also suggest co-ordination with rural development programmes so that the forest fringe areas and community/private owned forests can be developed on watershed approach in a holistic manner. The integrated area development approach with ecological concerns will benefit NREGA leading to better quality planning and selection of works capable of generating sustainable employment..

2. **National Afforestation Programme Scheme:**

NAP is being operated as a 100% Central Sector Scheme. The overall objective of the scheme is to develop the forest resources with people's participation, with focus on improvement in livelihoods of the forest-fringe communities, especially the poor. NAP Scheme aims to support and accelerate the ongoing process of devolving forest protection, management and development functions to decentralized institutions of Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMC) at the village level, and Forest Development Agency (FDA) at the forest division level. Financial support under NAP Scheme is for afforestation. For its success, ancillary activities are supported as well. The financial support is available for:

- (a) Mobilisation of village JFMC, and micro-planning in project villages
- (b) Afforestation following models:
 - Aided Natural Regeneration
 - Artificial Regeneration
 - Bamboo plantation
 - Cane Plantation
 - Mixed Plantation of trees having MFP & medicinal value
 - Regeneration of perennial herbs & shrubs of medicine value
 - Pasture Development/Silvipasture
- (c) Soil & moisture conservation
- (d) Entry point activity (for village development; average assistance ` . 1.6 lakh per village)
- (e) Fencing, monitoring & evaluation, training, awareness raising

NAP is implemented through a 2-tier structure of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at the forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMC) at the village level.

3. The decentralized, participatory management and the nature of works of NAP are both complementary to NREGA. At least 50% of works under NREGA are to be executed by Gram Panchayats. Line departments like the Forest department are also included among the implementing agencies and the norms to be followed are as per the Forest department. The project area under NAP are forest area and adjoining land areas including village common lands, community lands, revenue waste lands, Jhum lands and private lands, which are also covered under NREGA.
4. For monitoring and evaluation, baseline assessment, concurrent appraisal and documentation and evaluation of impact of NAP and NREGA on a set of indicators for eco restoration as well as for local community needs could be initiated. Quantification of benefits of works undertaken could also be taken up. For planning, micro plans would be prepared by the JFMC/FDAs as per NAP guidelines for NAP assistance and consolidated/vetted through FDAs for NAP funding.
 - 4.1. For planning, micro plans would be prepared by the JFMC/FDAs as per NAP guidelines for NAP assistance and consolidated/vetted through FDAs for NAP funding.
 - 4.2. A list of project activities to be planned for under NAP includes inter alia
 - (i) In situ soil moisture conservation measures,
 - (ii) Soil and moisture conservation by construction small scale engineering structures.
 - (iii) Planting and sowing of multi-purpose trees, shrubs, grasses and legumes, as well as non-timber species.
 - (iv) Fuel wood & fodder plantation including pasture development for meeting biomass needs of the rural communities.
 - (v) Conservation in situ of medicinal plant species and augmenting their plant population by undertaking plantation in the watershed area.
 - (vi) Raising of bamboo, cane plantation and medicinal plants.
 - (vii) Raising of coastal shelterbelts in the problem areas.
 - (viii) Cultural operations
 - (ix) Promotion of agro-forestry and sericulture, as appropriate.
 - (x) Wood substitution and fuel wood conservation measures such as distribution of fuel efficient stoves.
 - (xi) Measures needed to disseminate new technology.

All the activities / works listed above at serial number i) to ix) are also allowed/covered under NREGA. Therefore, a project covering forest area and adjoining land areas including village common lands, community lands, revenue waste lands, Jhum lands and private lands with watershed approach, will be

prepared. Works required and covered under NREGA will be implemented Works not allowed under the NREGA but permissible under NAP will be selected under NAP

4.2.1. The micro planning of Nap by the FFMCs can be coordinated with the Annual Work Plan(AWP) planning of NREGA, so that selection of works under NAP plan and under NREGA AWP complement each other.

5. **Works:**

The forest department should plan, provide technical advice, supervise to ensure quality activities. In case, land development has been undertaken (on individual/community land) plantation agro-forestry projects may be taken up. Forest Department may be considered for planning the next set of activities. The list of works completed/taken up will be shared with Department of Forest which will indicate appropriate activities/ technologies for each work for value addition, next set of activities and planning of new works.

6. **Convergence through works may be affected in some of the following ways**

- A. Gap filling NREGS for similar works under NAP
- B. Dovetailing inputs into a common Project
- C. Area approach
- D. Value addition through NREGA to NAP works
- E. Technical support for ensuring quality in planning, selection and execution of NREGA works

6.1. **Gap filling/enhance scale:**

Under this permissible works may ne converge for gap filling/ enhancing scale, mutually supplementing resources for common needs and inputs.

6.1.1. **Afforestation and tree plantation:**

The activities which can be covered under afforestation and tree plantation under NAP are:

(a) **Afforestation:**

To cover degraded forest and barren land under afforestation.

(b) **Reforestation & tree plantation:**

- Eco restoration
- Avenue plantation
- Road, rail canal and boundary plantation
- Shelter belt plantation
- Block plantation
- Agro-forestry

(c) Grass land development and Silvipasture:

Root stock regeneration, new plantation and silvipasture can be executed on common/panchayat/ revenue/forest land under NREGS. Some forms of fencing like dry stone, ditch, organic fencing can also be taken up under NREGA. Activities relating to cut back, coppice, singling, requires semi skilled or skilled labour. Skilled labour can be used for these activities and can be funded under NREGA provided that the 60:40 ratio (wage material) is maintained since skilled labour is costed under material head.

Boundary plantation and agro forestry on the land of SC, ST, Below Poverty Line (BPL) and beneficiary of land reforms and Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) can be taken up under NREGS and on individual land other than these categories, these activities can be taken up under NAP.

6.1.2. Water conservation/harvesting:

Creation/rejuvenation of traditional water harvesting structures under NREGA should be taken-up near plantations undertaken by NAP for additional watering of plantations/afforestation in the arid and semi arid areas. This will help in creating vegetation that conserves water/acts as a sponge in the medium to long term. Similar, contour trenches, check dams in the degraded forest lands in the vicinity of the habitations would help the biomass regeneration and part recharge water bodies.

Works on water conservation/harvesting which can be taken up under NREGA and also under NAP are:

- (a) Catchment area treatment
 - (b) Check dam
 - (c) Ponds
 - (d) Any other water conservation/harvesting structure as per local requirement
- (a) **Catchment area treatment:** As per Para 3.4 of operational guidelines of NAP, the project area should be confined to recorded forest and adjoining land areas including village common lands, community lands, revenue wastelands, Jhum lands and private lands.

To conserve rain water in situ and check soil erosion, treatment of catchment area falling in forest and surrounding area, be taken up on watershed approach by constructing contour furrows, continuous contour trenches, staggered trenches, box trenches, bunding, bench terracing and vegetative barriers etc. as per site requirement. Under this activity, the work on forest/village common/community/revenue waste lands and on the individual land of SC/ST/BPL/beneficiary of land reform and IAY can be carried out under NREGS and in addition, supplement these works in FDA project area under NAP.

- (b) **Check dam:** Different types of temporary and permanent check dams in the drainage lines, falling in the area may be taken up on a watershed approach that is starting from ridge to

valley. On forest/ village common/ community/ revenue waste lands and on the individual land of SC/ ST/ BPL/ beneficiary of land reform and IAY these can be constructed under NREGS and in addition, supplement these works in FDA project area under NAP

- (c) **Ponds:** Similarly the construction of different type of ponds i.e. dugout ponds, sunken ponds, farm ponds and Village ponds etc. for storage of rain water and recharge ground water in the catchment area as per requirement and feasibility on forest/ village common/ community/ revenue wastelands and on the individual land of SC/ ST/ BPL/ beneficiary of land reform and IAY be carried out under NREGS and in addition, supplement these works in FDA Project area under NAP.

6.1.3. Land development:

Land development activities may be taken up under NREGA to rehabilitate degraded forest and wasteland. The entire activity of land development should be conceived of as a project, with a clearly laid out plan for land use after land development. If plantation/ afforestation is planned, then the kind of plantation specie to be used, the source of irrigation, protection can be taken up under NREGS and afforestation and plantation can be under NAP.

6.1.4. Roads:

Maintenance of forest roads may be taken up under NREGA.

6.2. Dovetailing inputs into a common project:

Under this, certain basics activities of a project may be through activities under NREGA. The activities that can be done under NREGS are:

- (i) Closure by dry stone wall, ditch cum bund fencing
- (ii) Construction soil and water conservation structures
- (iii) Soil work for contour trenches, V ditches, digging of pits
- (iv) Seeding through NREGS labour
- (v) Weeding and hoeing can be done through NREGS labour

Following works may be carried out under NAP:

- (i) Raising nursery
- (ii) Transportation of plants to the planting site
- (iii) Application of manure/insecticides
- (iv) Protection from
 - Frost
 - Hot Winds
 - Grazing

(v) Barbed wire fencing where other fencing not possible

(vi) Watch & wand

6.3. Area approach:

Certain activities required for integrated development of area (but permitted under NREGA) may also be taken up in the fringe area, through Forest Department as it will ensure uniformity and quality of approach guided ecological concerns. These include activities like irrigation facilities, land development, renovation of traditional water bodies, drainage and water logged areas.

6.4. Value addition through backward-forward linkages for sustainable development:

NREGA can provide the primary input into natural resource generation. For it to become the basis of sustainable development backward-forward linkages have to be worked out and the entire work should be conceptualized as a project. The project approach must have a two fold objective: (i) ensuring that the works under NREGA are made durable through appropriate inputs (such as technologies not permitted under NREGA). This may normally imply moving from kuccha to pucca, (ii) Using the physical asset created under NREGA for economic activities in a way that the labour that has worked on that asset is able to earn an income from it. Examples of this approach are

- Land development (Individual land of eligible categories under NREGA) and agro-forestry on that land under NAP
- Plantation
- Minor Forest Produce (MFP) based activities-for MFP primary collectors-skill up gradation for primary processing of MFP, micro financing through SHGs, ware housing/cold storage facility of MFPs, common facility hubs-lathe machine/bamboo splitting machine

7. Implementation agencies:

Beside the Forest Department and the Gram Panchayat, Joint Forest Management Committees may also be the implementation agencies.

8. Funding will be through NREGS and NAP.

9. These guidelines would be subject to existing forestry legislations/regulations.

1.	Ri-Bhoi	Meghalaya
2.	North Lakhimpur	Assam
3.	Sepahijala	Tripura
4.	Pauri	Uttarakhand
5.	Pilibhit	Uttar Pradesh
6.	Kuchchh	Gujarat

7.	Jaisalmer	Rajasthan
8.	Dantewada	Chhattisgarh
9.	Malkangiri	Orissa
10.	Singhbhum (East)	Jharkhand
11.	Aurangabad	Bihar
12.	Sehore	Madhya Pradesh
13.	Tumkur	Karnataka
14.	Wayanad	Kerala
15.	Nashik	Maharashtra
16.	Cuddapah	Andhra Pradesh
17.	Viluppuram	Tamil Nadu
18.	South 24 Pargana	West Bengal

D.O. No. Dy. 178/SRD/09-NREGA

New Delhi
9th February 2009

Dear (surname)

Subject: Guidelines for Convergence between NREGS and PMGSY.

1. The Ministry of Rural Development is responsible for the flagship programmes of the Government, vis., the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) being solely targeted towards it and NREGS including rural connectivity as one of its permissible works. More than 16% of NREGA works, currently, relate to rural connectivity. Possibilities of convergence between NREGA and the PMGSY of MoRD were discussed and based on these discussions convergence areas and modalities were identified.
2. Detailed Guidelines for Convergence between NREGA and PMGSY convergence are attached. These instructions are meant to optimize synergies between NREGA and PMGSY of MoRD. They are suggestive in nature and should be used to encourage innovative convergence projects at the district level, enabling a more efficient and sustainable use of resource.
3. I would request you to convene a meeting of the officers responsible for implementing NREGA and PMGSY to discuss these guidelines. This should be followed by a joint meeting of the officers in charge of the NREGA and PMGSY. The districts officers meeting should aim at firming up processes for operationalizing the Convergence Guidelines in a time bound manner.
4. I would appreciate an acknowledgment of this communication and intimation of the action initiated.

Yours sincerely

(Rita Sharma)

1. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY):

Providing a good road network is very essential for the development of the any country. Government of India has launched a programme for connectivity of villages of designated population in the name of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

The PMGSY programme has its own guidelines and quality control and contract management systems. Ministry of Rural Development has issued a vision document in the name of Rural Road Development Plan: Vision 2025 with the objective of connecting all habitations above 250 populations in the country by year 2021-2022.

2. Convergence between NREGA and PMGSY:

National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) has also provision to take up rural connectivity to provide all weather access. The convergence of NREGA and PMGSY may be instrumental in achievement the goals of Rural Road Development Plan: Vision 2025 by Ministry of Rural Development. In the interest of providing proper connectivity to all villages/habitations of the country and, convergence of both these schemes of NREGA and PMGSY may provide better alternatives in planning of rural connectivity. Convergence between NREGA and PMGSY is mutually beneficial.

- (a) The PMGSY programme has a target to connect unconnected habitations up to 500 populations in normal areas and 250 population in case of hilly, tribal or desert areas under the programme guidelines. Large numbers of other habitations may not be covered because of this population threshold limit. These habitations may be taken up for rural connectivity under NREGA as per PMGSY standards.
- (b) The PMGSY envisages only single basic connectivity to unconnected habitations. More than one route to connect habitation to market centre or growth centre may not qualify for taking up in PMGSY. In such case, need based multiple connectivity beyond PMGSY core network can be considered for rural connectivity under NREGA.
- (c) PMGSY guidelines provides for connectivity of habitation within built-up area and 50 meters. on either side within habitation. Construction or improvement of other village internal roads or lanes by means of paving or other local pavement material may be considered under NREGA.
- (d) About 1.80 lakh kms of road length is constructed or upgraded under PMGSY. The programme has a provision of planting fruit bearing and other suitable trees on both sides of the roads to be taken up by State Government or Panchayat from their own funds. This activity needs more attention now. Convergence of these two schemes can be considered in the form of planting fruit and other trees on PMGSY roads through NREGA.

3. Modalities and parameters of convergence as per NREGA:

3.1. Monitoring and evaluation:

Joint monitoring and supervision of activities should be planned. Baseline assessment, concurrent appraisal and documentation and evaluation of impact of PMGSY and NREGA on a set of indicators for eco-restoration as well as for local community needs could be initiated. Quantification of benefits of works undertaken could also be taken up.

3.2. Planning:

Works/activities: A list of project activities with specifications to be planned for rural connectivity under NREGA/PMGSY includes inter alia:

3.2.1. Selection of roads:

- (i) Selection of roads be made from, Block-wise core network, which is available with the agency implementing PMGSY in the state.
- (ii) Demarcation of land for the proposed road be made with the help of Patwari/Tehsildar and boundary pillar fixed. States are obtaining additional land width on voluntary donation basis.
- (iii) Road works in forest areas shall be taken up after obtaining approval of the forest department.

3.2.2. Geometric design standards:

Improvement of features, like grade, curvature and widening of cross drainage works at a later date under convergence can be very expensive and sometimes impossible in remote and hilly area. It is therefore necessary that ultimate geometric requirement of rural road and specified under PMGSY are followed right from the beginning. The design standards of Rural Road Manual for geometric design may be followed.

The design standards recommended are absolute minimum. However, the minimum value should be applied only where serious restrictions are implied from technical or economical considerations. General efforts should be to exceed the minimum values as far as possible.

Roads should be designed so as to have minimum number of curves and the total number of curves in one kilometer should generally be less than 6.

Minimum radius of curves specified in IRC SP-20 should not be reduced further. This is required from road user safety considerations.

Formation width, road land width, building and control lines, roadway width, carriageway width, curves & gradients norms be followed as laid down in IRC:SP:20-2002' Rural Roads Manual'.

Few important ones are as follows:

(a) Road Land width: (in meter)

Road classification	Plain and Rolling Terrain (0- 25 percent cross slope of the country)				Mountainous and Steep Terrain (25- 60 percent cross slope of the country)			
	Open Area		Built-up Area		Open Area		Built-up Area	
	Normal	Range	Normal	Range	Normal	Range	Normal	Range
	15	15-25	15	15-20	12	12	12	9

The lower values of road land width may be adopted where the traffic intensity is less than 100 motorized vehicles per day and not likely to increase.

(b) **Roadway Width:**

Terrain classification	Roadway Width (m)
Plain and Rolling	7.5
Mountainous and Steep	6.0

The 6m width may be adopted in case of plain and rolling terrain, where the traffic intensity is less than 100 motorized vehicles per day and not likely to increase. The habitations of 250 populations may fall in this category.

(c) **Carriageway Width:**

Road Classification	Carriageway Width (m)
Rural Roads	3.75

The 3m width may be adopted where the traffic intensity is less than 100 motorized vehicles per day and not likely to increase. The habitations of 250 populations may fall in this category.

3.2.3. Embankment construction:

For embankment construction, the specifications and guide lines, from the book, "Specifications for Rural Road" issued by MoRD may be followed.

- (i) The foundation for embankment construction be prepared after removing top soil/unsuitable material.
- (ii) Material for embankment (Earth) to be in accordance with the, "Specification for Rural Road" issued by MoRD.

Following types of soils are not suitable for embankment construction:

- (a) Expensive clays with swelling index > 50%, clay with LL > 70 and PI > 45
- (b) Materials from swamps, marshes & bogs
- (c) Peat, log, stump and perishable materials
- (d) Materials susceptible for spontaneous combustion
- (e) Salty or salt infested soils with pH > 8.5 (Sodic soils)
- (f) Materials prohibited in clause 301.2.3 of MoRD specifications
- (iii) Thickness of each layer not to exceed 15 cm or 20cm depending on the type of roller (Static or Vibratory) used for compaction as per clause 301.5.5 of MoRD specifications.

- (iv) Compaction under Optimum Moisture Content (OMC) is must with the use of:
 - (a) Trailer mounted water browser
 - (b) Static smooth-wheeled roller of 80 to 100 kn static weight
- (v) The OMC & maximum dry density to be determined in advance for type of soil available & to be used, by qualified person or laboratory.
- (vi) Compacted density of each layer to be measured using sand replacement method or core cutter, before proceeding to the next layer.
- (vii) Stage passing would be the key activity for ensuring the utility of earth embankment for future development of rural roads for its durability and serviceability. As such records of such tests are to be maintained by Junior Engineer and checked by Assistant Engineer or Executive Engineer before next layer is laid. The AE/EE is expected to conduct tests of degree of compaction and surface regularly before stage passing.
- (viii) Side slope of the earth embankment should be stable & guidelines of IRC: SP: 202002'Rural Roads Manual be followed.
- (ix) In case of Sandy & Silty soil, erosion to be protected by grassing of side slope.
- (x) Camber is necessary so that rain water does not stagnate on the embankment.
- (xi) As prescribed above, some minimum equipment support for ensuring quality control is required.

Availability of these equipment with the field agencies which would execute project as well as their training has to be ensured.

Recommended Camber for Different Surface Types:

Surface Type	Camber (percent)	
	Low Rainfall (Annual Rainfall less than 1000 mm)	High Rainfall (Annual Rainfall more than 1000mm)
Earth	4.0	5.0
WBM and Gravel Road	3.5	4.0

- (xi) The borrow pit should be at least 1.5 meter away from toe of the embankment.
- (xii) Depth of borrow pit should not be more than 100 cm.
- (xiii) In case of fertile soil in the borrow pit area, top 15 cm of earth should be stripped and stacked aside.

Thereafter, soil may be dug to a further depth not exceeding 30 cm. The topsoil shall than be spread back on the land.

3.2.4. Cross drainage Work:

- (i) Cross drainage work should be included as part of the Scheme.
- (ii) The opening of culvert (waterway) should be as per IRC: SP: 202002' Rural Roads Manual.
- (iii) Slab Culvert up to 6.0 meters span or pipe culvert of minimum internal diameter 90.0 cm be constructed by the agency, who is executing this work under NREGA and should follow the "Specifications for Rural Road" issued by MoRD. However, for longer span, agency that is responsible for construction of bridges in the state should be assigned this work.
- (iv) Minimum cushion over the pipe be ensured.

The Roadway width on cross drainage should be as follows:

Roadway Width On Cross drainage (m):

Location	Terrain	
	Plain and Rolling	Mountainous and Steep
Culverts	7.5 (inclusive of parapet)	6.0 (inclusive of parapet)
Causeway and Submersible Bridges	7.5	6.0
Bridges	5.5 (exclusive of parapet)*	
	* The 4.25 m width may be adopted where the motorized traffic intensity is less than 100 vehicles per day and not likely to increase	

Therefore, a project covering all the areas will be prepared. Works required and covered under NREGA will be selected under NREGS. Works not allowed under NREGA but permissible under PMGSY will be selected under PMGSY.

3.2.5. Minimum testing equipment required:

- (i) Sand replacement kit: Sand Pouring Cylinder with tray complete for field density test.
- (ii) Compaction testing kit

4. Stages of works:

Works under NREGA may be at three levels: (i) Works approved in the current shelf but not yet started (ii) Ongoing works and (iii) Works completed (iv) Works yet to be selected for the next financial year (as part of the annual planning process). Therefore, convergence would need to be planned, keeping these varying stages of works.

The operation may be undertaken at three levels. In case of the first scenario, where works have been included in the shelf of projects, but not started yet, the Shelf of Projects formulated under NREGA may be

re-scrutinized to assess the feasibility of road work selected. The nodal/ implementing department of PMGSY may share their data base on roads in that area/district so that it may be assessed that the selection of roads is appropriate. If any correction is required it may be done. In case of the second and third scenarios, the expertise of the nodal/implementing department of PMGSY should be marshaled for quality supervision, and in planning the next set of activities. In case, the technical advice of the nodal/ implementing department of PMGSY may be considered for planning the next set of activities. The list of roads completed/ taken up will be shared with nodal/ implementing department of PMGSY which will plan to take up for value addition by making it pucca.

5. Convergence through works may be affected in some of the following ways:

- (i) Gap filling: Through NREGS road side plantation on the roads constructed under PMGSY.
- (ii) Area Approach: Nodal/implementing agency of PMGSY and resource group will plan roads required for integrated development of area. Roads permitted under PMGSY may be taken up under PMGSY and remaining roads not covered under PMGSY but covered under NREGA can be taken up under NREGS as it will ensure uniformity and quality.
- (iii) Value addition through PMGSY to NREGA roads: For it to become the basis of sustainable development backward-forward Linkages have to be worked out and the entire work be conceptualized as a project. The project approach must have a two-fold objective: (a) ensuring that the work under NREGA is made durable through appropriate inputs (not permitted under NREGA). This may normally imply moving from kuccha to pucca (b) Using the physical assets created under NREGA for economic activities in a way that the labor that has worked on that asset is able to earn an income from it by better mobility

6. Implementation agencies:

Beside the Gram Panchayat, the executing agencies of PMGSY may also be the implementation agencies in States where PMGSY work is more or less complete. In States, where Project Implementation Units (PIUs) are fully tied up in execution of ongoing PMGSY projects, in such States, PIUs of PMGSY may be made responsible for providing necessary technical support for planning, project preparation and quality control of the 'convergence projects' and to take up a demonstration project in each district.

7. Funding will be through NREGA and PMGSY.

Guidelines for Convergence of NREGA with Programmes of Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) for Development of Agriculture and Allied Sectors

The main objective of these guidelines is to provide convergence at the national level of NREGA and various agricultural development programmes. These guidelines provide innovation at the district, block and Panchayat level within the financial discipline envisaged for all the schemes of Ministry of Agriculture and NREGA.

Convergence Between NREGA and Programmes of MOA:

1. The schemes and programmes of Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) both operate in rural India and the target beneficiaries are primarily common. Whereas MoRD schemes and programmes focus on employment generation/guarantee, as well as asset creation in rural areas, both for community benefit and individual livelihood support, MoA targets basically the agriculture sector with schemes and programmes which typically benefit individual farmers, though there are certain interventions which are for collective benefit to the farming community. Thus, while both the Ministries are channelizing their efforts for the benefit of primarily the same population, currently there exists very limited convergence or meeting point of these two streams. This hiatus needs to be removed and the operations of MoA and MoRD need to be synergized at the implementation level, typically the district level.
2. MoA implements several programmes for accelerating growth in agriculture and allied sectors but to start with the efforts at convergence with NREGA could focus on the National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Horticulture Mission (NHM), the Integrated Nutrient Programme, National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA), Soil conservation in river catchment areas and flood prone areas (RFP & FPR), Development of Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture, Development of Brackish Water Aquaculture, cold Water Fisheries and Aquaculture, Development of Waterlogged areas, Productive Utilization of Inland Saline/Alkaline Water for Aquaculture, Inland Capture Fisheries (Reservoirs/Rivers) and the Fodder And Feed Development Scheme. However, in case there are any other schemes where convergence is possible, the district administration need not limit itself to the above schemes alone and innovate depending upon the local needs.
3. In the year 2007-08, the Government had introduced the new scheme RKVY which had, amongst many other objectives, the objective of integrating livestock, poultry and fishery more fully. This resulted in considerable convergence of effort at the district and block level in the activities of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries. The benefits of such convergence were visible in the implementation of the scheme in 2007-08 as well as 2008-09. The guidelines of RKVY had also emphasized integration of multiple programmes that are in operation in the districts, such as the NREGS, Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF), Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY), Bharat Nirman etc. However, this kind of integration is yet not visible. It is felt that it is time that special efforts are made by the State Governments to integrate these efforts and for the works implemented under NREGA to yield durable quality assets that can contribute to sustainable rural

development, convergence of NREGA with the above schemes and programmes of MOA as with programmes of other development ministries would produce great synergy.

4. While planning for convergence it may be kept in mind that for all projects, works and activities identified for convergence, the NREGA component must conform to the following parameters:
 - (a) The material component of projects including the wages of the skilled and semi-skilled workers taken up under the scheme shall not exceed forty percent of the total project costs.
 - (b) As far as practicable, a task funded under the NREGA shall be performed by using manual labour and not machines.
 - (c) No contractors to be involved at any stage of implementing the wage project on the site.
 - (d) Only registered job card holders to be employed on the NREGA component of the convergence project.
 - (e) Muster rolls to be maintained on the worksite with electronic copies loaded on the NREGA websites.
 - (f) Wage payments to the wage seekers will be directed through banks/post office savings accounts and social audits through Gram Sabhas will be an integral feature.
5. It may also be noted that the MORD by Notification dated 22nd July, 2009 have permitted that works on individual land holdings can also be undertaken under NREGA and specifically permits “provision of irrigation facility, horticulture plantation and land development facilities to land owned by households belonging to the Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes or Below Poverty Line families or to beneficiaries of land reforms or to the beneficiaries under the Indira Awas Yojana of Government of India or that of the small farmers or marginal farmers as defined in the Agriculture Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme,2008.” This further would assist convergence efforts between NREGA and MoA programmes.

Nodal point for Convergence:

6. For convergence to be effective, there has to be at least one link in the two separate hierarchies of (a) MoRD - State Department of Rural Development - District Collector/DRDA - ZilaParishad - Gram Panchayat and that of (b) MoA - State Department of Agriculture/Animal Husbandry/Fisheries - District Collector Block Agriculture Officer - Gram Panchayat. The obvious common link is the District Collector. Therefore, the District Collector should be the nodal point for conceiving and implementation of all convergence efforts. The District Collector being the District Programme Coordinator for NREGA as well as responsible for District Agriculture Planning Unit for RKVY, convergence of the plans at the district level would be easier.
7. Programmes of MOA have been examined for convergence suitability with NREGA and following convergence parameters emerge broadly:
 - (a) Convergence of resources available under MOA programme for public lands and NREGA will be very useful. Labour component of these programmes and material component to the extent available of the approved unit cost can be funded from NREGA and the remaining material component can be funded from MOA programme.

- (b) Programmes on individual farmers, which satisfy the conditions of eligibility under NREGA i.e. small and marginal farmers, farmers belonging to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families etc. where labour component is identifiable can also be converged with NREGA for meeting the cost of labour and material component, to the extent permissible. Remaining part of the unit cost can be funded from MOA programmes.
 - (c) Any other programmes of MoA in which the District Collector feels it would be feasible to converge efforts with NREGA
8. To illustrate, establishment of new gardens envisaged under NHM involves soil testing, cleaning and ploughing of land and excavation of pits. For an acre of mango orchard, the expenses on the above would be around ₹. 4000/- which can be entirely dovetailed with NREGA. Similarly, where an NREGA work site has dug up a pond of 3,000 cubic meters, the same could be used for scampi farming under the inland fisheries development project as value addition, or used in conjunction with MoA Programme of Micro Irrigation and Horticulture to provide sustainable livelihood to small and marginal farmers.
 9. Since more than half of 2009-10 is already over, it may not be feasible to take up convergence activities in a major way in the current financial year. However, in order to make a beginning, the District Collector may identify at least five convergence projects in the District and implement them within the current financial year. They may either choose to target MoA schemes for beneficiaries of some completed NREGA projects or vice versa, in order to achieve quick results this year. From the year 2010-11, the convergence attempts should be planned at the beginning of the year and expanded to include much more beneficiaries by planning for convergence at the project formulation stage itself for NREGA and MoA schemes

Monitoring Convergence:

10. The District Collector would primarily be responsible for monitoring the convergence efforts. At the end of the financial year, the District Collector should send a report to the Department of Rural Development/ Department of Agriculture of the State Government on the convergence efforts, indicating the specific schemes/projects on which convergence has been achieved between NREGA and any project of MOA, the number of beneficiaries, and the specific output and outcome of this convergence effort. The State Government in turn should send a report to the MoRD/MoA by the 15th May of the following financial year.
11. The convergence project(s) would be subject to social audit on the same lines as the stand-alone NREGA works. Following a baseline assessment, an independent evaluation of the impact of converging MOA programmes with NREGA could be assigned to an independent institution, two years down the line.

Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing:

12. Convergence involves a massive programme of managing change across several departments and ranks

which can be facilitated through a comprehensive capacity building effort with the support of a group of learning partners. While that would be a long drawn effort, to begin with, each state would organize a state level workshop on convergence to be followed by at least two district level workshops. Similar workshops would be organized at the block level. The workshops should aim at sensitizing the participants to the need for knowledge sharing and cross departmental communication as the basis for forging convergence and also the synergies accruing there from. Behavioural inputs and exercises should be part of the proposed workshops to impact mindsets and influence individual as well as group think.