

**Compliance Report with respect to Obligations of Public Authority vide Clause 4(1) (b) of Right to Information Act 2005 in the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India**

*Clause 4(1) Every public authority shall*

(a) *Maintain all its records duly catalogued and indexed in a manner and the form which facilitates the right to information under this Act and ensure that all records that are appropriate to be computerized are, within a reasonable time and subject to availability of resources, computerized and connected through a network all over the country on different systems so that access to such records is facilitated;*

**The records/reports/notes and statistics on different facets of agriculture are kept in a form to facilitate compilation and publication/dissemination of statistics on different facets of agriculture at regular intervals. These may be accessed at our website: <http://eands.dacnet.nic.in/>**

(b) *Publish before the commencement of this Act*

(i) *the particulars of its organization, functions and duties;*

**The Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES) is an attached office of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC). DES functions from the Krishi Bhavan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi, and is headed by the Economic and Statistical Adviser (ESA). The functions and duties of DES are:-**

- **To create and maintain economic information base and statistical data base essential for planning and policy formulation in agriculture and related areas/activities/sectors.**
- **To collect, collate and disseminate statistics of area, production and yield of principal crops.**
- **To supply economic inputs for agricultural economic policy and development.**
- **To monitor weather and crop situation across time and space.**

- To analyse cost data for major crops comprising cereals, pulses, oilseeds, and other commercial crops , viz. cotton, jute and sugarcane, and furnish state-wise cost estimates to CACP for use in making recommendations on price policy for kharif and rabi crops every year.
- To process the CACP Reports on Price Policy in consultation with States and Central Ministries/Departments and arrange for announcement of Minimum Support Prices by the Government.
- To conduct agro-economic research studies and disseminate main findings to concerned agencies both within as well as outside Government
- To conduct workshops/conferences/seminars as also provide inputs for similar endeavours organized by DAC. [Details are at Annex I](#)

*(ii) the powers and duties of its officers and employees*

**Officers and employees perform their duties for the fulfillment of functions of DES, aimed at creating/ updating and disseminating statistics on different facets of agriculture, and furnishing agricultural economic policy inputs for policy formulation. ESA heads DES, and guides and supervises performance of various duties/tasks assigned to different officers and employees in DES.**

*(iii) the procedure followed in the decision making process, including channels of supervision and accountability;*

**ESA reports to the Principal Adviser/ Secretary (A&C) , and, on all matters requiring attention/approval of Secretary and also Minister of State and the Union Minister, files/papers/statements are submitted to Principal Adviser / Secretary for approval/order/information at the level of Principal Adviser/Secretary/ Minister of State/Union Minister .In other cases, the ESA approves/decides at his level. In cases not requiring approval/attention at the level of ESA, power for approval/ decision vests with Advisers and/or with Officers junior in hierarchy. Meetings/Discussion are held with all concerned within DES/ with other concerned officers in the Department/Ministry and**

**also institutions/individuals.**

(iv) *the norms set by it for the discharge of its functions;*

**Standards in terms of time ,coverage, consistency, frequency, which are explicit/implicit for all important items of work are observed by officials in DES as well as States/ Universities/Research Institutions entrusted with the respective items of work. Adherence to these standards is also monitored/reviewed through meetings/ discussion, including regular interaction with Sates/ Universities/Research Institutions during annual/periodic Meetings/Worksops/Seminars.**

(v) *the rules, regulations, instructions, manuals and records, held by it or under its control or used by its employees for discharging its functions;*

**DES is an attached office of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, engaged in economic and statistical work required in connection with planning and policy formulation in agriculture. Procedures and practices to be followed are known and understood by officers and employees entrusted with the respective items of work. Wherever relevant/necessary, proformae and related instructions, including explanatory notes, are prepared and given to concerned officials/agencies. Care is also taken to comply with the recommendations made by expert committees in regard to concepts/definitions, estimation procedures, etc. in this exercise.**

(vi) *a statement of the categories of documents that are held by it or under its control;*

**The statistics on different facets of agriculture and allied sectors are widely disseminated through publications. Important publications/statistics are also given at the website. Keeping in view the emerging changes in technology within the country as well as abroad in the dissemination of agricultural statistics, constant efforts are made to update/upgrade the methods for dissemination of statistics by DES.**



(xiv) *details in respect of the information, available to or held by it, reduced in an electronic form;*

**The details are provided at Directorate's website: <http://eands.dacnet.nic.in/>**

(xv) *the particulars of facilities available to citizens for obtaining information, including the working hours of a library or reading room, if maintained for public use;*

**DES has an in house reference library**

(xvi) *the names, designations and other particulars of the public information officers;*

**Central Public Information Officer (CPIO):**

**1. Dr, S. Chandrasekar, Adviser, Tele: 23382244 (O)**

**Central Assistant Public Information Officer (CAPIO):**

**2. Sh. R. Shiva Shankar, Asstt. Director Tele: 23387280 (O)**

**Appellate Authority**

**3. Shri Debasish Guha, Adviser, Tele : 23382540 (O )**

(xvii) *such other information as may be prescribed;*

**Public Grievance Officer**

**1. Shri L.N. Meena, Asstt. Director, Tele: 23388004 (O)**

**Directorate of Economics & Statistics**

The Directorate of Economics and Statistics (DES), an attached office of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC), Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, is entrusted with the economic and statistical work concerning different facets of agriculture. Work in this area may be broadly divided into the following categories:-

- (a) Agricultural economic policy and development
- (b) Food economics and statistics
- (c) Trade in agriculture
- (d) Agro-economic research
- (e) Area , production and yield estimates
- (f) Statistics of investment, growth, wages, employment, Costs, Prices, trade and related variables in agriculture.
- (g) Collection, collation, dissemination and publication of Agricultural Statistics
- (h) National crop forecasting (Crop & Weather Watch Group Meetings and operationalisation of New Schemes on FASAL And Extended Range Weather Forecast)
- (i) Economic and Statistical work involved in important ad hoc assignments like Revision of base of WPI for Agricultural Commodities, Conduct of National/International Conferences, etc.

## **Agricultural Economic Policy and Development**

Price policy for agricultural commodities constitutes an important element of overall agricultural economic policy. Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) for important cereals, pulses, oilseeds, and other commercial crops, namely, cotton, jute and sugarcane, are fixed by the Government every year on the basis of the recommendations made by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

The most important factor considered by the CACP in making its recommendations on MSPs for different crops is the cost of cultivation/production for which the database is provided by the DES through its plan scheme for study on cost of cultivation. Analysis of various price policy issues in the emerging socio-economic environment requires advance information on the production of different crops, supply-demand scenario, as well as regular monitoring of price movements in both the domestic and international markets.

The effectiveness of price policy in boosting production and productivity of agriculture in tune with domestic as well as external demand cannot be assessed in the absence of regular data on area, production and yield of different crops. Similarly, data on domestic and international prices for various agricultural commodities, trends in procurement, off-take and stocks of foodgrains, consumption of different agricultural commodities, their exports and imports, etc. assume immense significance in the emerging external economic environment, which is increasingly influenced by the World Trade Organisation. The importance of a sound data/ information base on different facets of

agriculture cannot therefore be overemphasized. The Plan Schemes of DES seek to serve this purpose.

In keeping with the need to adopt a holistic approach to the implementation of individual schemes with inter-related objectives, it has been proposed/decided to merge the on-going plan schemes into three broad umbrella schemes. The details of these schemes, with special reference to the component schemes, are given below.

## **1. Studies on Inputs for Agricultural Economic Policy and Development**

### **1.1 Comprehensive Scheme for Studying the Cost of Cultivation of Principal Crops in India**

The Comprehensive Scheme for Studying the Cost of Cultivation of Principal Crops in India is being implemented since 1970-71 as a Central Sector Plan Scheme on the basis of recommendations made by the Standing Technical Committee on Indices of Input Costs constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Ashok Mitra in 1967.

The main objectives of the scheme are as follows:

- (i) collection and compilation of field data on cost of cultivation and cost of production in respect of 27 crops; and
- (ii) generation of estimates of cost of cultivation and cost of production of various crops in different States covered under the scheme ;

The estimates of cost of cultivation of principal crops are used by the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) for recommending Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of various crops, including sugarcane for which the support price is termed "Statutory Minimum Price (SMP)." The Directorate of Economics &



Statistics (DES) in the Ministry of Agriculture gets this study conducted through 16 Agricultural/General Universities/College. Under the scheme, the field data pertaining to the cost of cultivation/ cost of production are collected, compiled and analysed. The estimates of cost of cultivation/production furnished to the CACP forms an important basis for recommending the MSPs of various agricultural commodities to the Government of India.

The cost estimates generated under the scheme are also used by State Governments, Agricultural/General Universities, Government / Non-Government Research Organizations and individual researchers. Besides, the database on a number of items under the scheme is used by the Central Statistical Organisation in connection with the compilation of national income estimates.

The scheme is implemented in 19 states, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. The studies in the States, except newly created States of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Uttaranchal are undertaken by the Agricultural Universities/colleges located in their respective States. As far as the three newly created States are concerned, their parent institutions undertake these studies.

At present, the scheme covers the following crops i.e. paddy, wheat, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi, barley, moong, urad, arhar, gram, masur, peas, groundnut, rapeseed and mustard, nigerseed, soyabean, sunflower, safflower, sesamum, cotton, jute, sugarcane, onion, potato, coconut and black pepper.

The field data under the scheme are collected on the Cost Accounting Method under which daily entries of debit/credit for the expenditure/income are made in order to assess the total cost incurred/benefit accrued by/ to each farmer covered under the scheme. The field data are collected by the field-men. The detailed questionnaire is filled up/updated on monthly/annual basis after making enquiries

on daily basis from 10 farm holdings which consists of 2 each from 5 different size classes viz. up to 1 hectare, 1-2 hectares, 2-4 hectares, 4-6 hectares and above 6 hectares allotted to each field-man.

## 1.2 Agro-Economic Research Scheme

The Agro-Economic Research Scheme was started in 1954-55 for undertaking research studies on agro economic problems of the country. The study reports help the administrators and policy-makers in their future planning & policy decisions besides immense help to the academicians/ researchers in the field of agricultural economics. The Scheme is being implemented through 12 Agro-Economic Research Centres and 3 Units which are fully funded by the Government through Central Sector plan Scheme. On an average 35-40 research studies are completed annually by these Centres , which relate to various economic problems in agriculture, animal husbandry, water management and allied areas.

**Research Studies** There is a Coordinating Committee for Organization of Research Studies (CCOS) for finalization of study proposals to be undertaken by AERCs/Us in the field of agricultural economics. The committee is chaired by the Secretary (A&C) with representatives of other Ministries/Research Institutes as Members. The committee, taking into account the study proposals received from different Ministries/Departments and AER Centres/Units, decides the priority areas of research. On the basis of the recommendations of the CCOS, studies are allotted to different AER Centres/Units. A workshop is organised to finalise the research Methodology,sampling design and survey questionnaire for conducting of the allotted studies. In case of studies of all India importance, a Centre or a Unit is designated as the Coordinating Centre. This Centre or Unit prepares the coordinating report at the national level based on the state level reports prepared by different AERCs. The reports received from the Centres/Units are circulated

amongst the sponsoring agencies and other related Ministries/State Governments including Planning Commission for taking appropriate decisions and follow up action Sometimes, depending upon the importance of the study, presentation of the final report are being organized in Department of Agriculture.

### 1.3 Planning and Management of Agriculture:

In order to assess the impact of changes on the farm economy with focus on the state of Indian farmers, Planning and Management of Agriculture, a Central Sector Scheme, was formulated during 1998-99 with a view to organize conferences and seminars involving eminent economists, agricultural scientist, experts, etc., to conduct short term studies, engage consultancy services for preparation of new decentralized strategy for development of crops, animals, dairy, poultry, irrigation, soil and water conservation etc. and to bring out papers/reports based on the recommendations of the workshops, seminars, conferences, etc. The inputs gathered from the studies, seminars, workshops are very useful to get inputs required in connection with formulation of national agricultural policy, sub-sect oral policies, monitoring and implementation of the programmes etc.

Specific activities funded under this scheme are:

- i) Publications of Agricultural Situation in India, Agricultural Statistics at a Glance, Cost of Cultivation, and Wage Statistics.
- ii) Cotton Study
- iii) Funding of studies research, etc., required to be outsourced.

#### 1.4 Strengthening of Agricultural Statistics & Agricultural Policy Formulation

The scheme involves holding a National Workshop on Improvement of Agricultural Statistics every year. Officers from the state Departments of agriculture, revenue, economics and statistics, horticulture, agricultural marketing, and Central Ministries, organizations participate in the workshop. In the workshop, ways and means to bring about improvement in collection and compilation of agricultural statistics are discussed. The methodological issues relating to preparation of advance estimates of area and production of crops, reconciling estimates of cotton production with Cotton Advisory Board, compiling statistics relating to horticulture crops, forecasting area and production of crops through remote sensing, timely conduct of agricultural census and timely release of its reports, reducing time lag in collection of land use statistics, improving collection of wholesale and retail prices, cost of cultivation studies etc. are also discussed.

#### 1.5 Drought Management (DM)

The Drought Management Programme, an independent Central Sector Plan Scheme, was discontinued in the Tenth Plan and the scheme was subsumed with the previously mentioned Umbrella Scheme during 2007-08, and its funds are allocated for studies related to DM Division of DAC.

## **2 Improvement of Agricultural Statistics**

Agriculture Statistics Improvement (ASI) Division in the DES deals with implementation of Plan scheme viz. "Improvement of Agricultural Statistics". The basic objective of the Scheme is to collect and improve agricultural statistics of Principal Agricultural Crops and selected Horticultural Crops. The Scheme has four components namely (i) Timely Reporting Scheme, (ii) Improvement of Crop Statistics, (iii) Establishment of an Agency for Reporting of Agricultural Statistics

(EARAS) and (iv) Crop Estimation Survey on Fruits & Vegetables. The component-wise details of the Scheme are given as under.

### 2.1 Timely Reporting of Estimates of Area and Production of Principal Crops (TRS):

The objective of this component is to obtain estimates of area of principal crops, in each season, with break up of area under irrigated/unirrigated and traditional /high yielding varieties of crops on the basis of priority enumeration conducted on the basis of random sample of 20% of villages by a specific date. The States are required to furnish these estimates by 30<sup>th</sup> November for Kharif Crops and by 30<sup>th</sup> April for Rabi crops. These estimates are used for generating advance estimates of production of principal crops. This component is being implemented in 16 land record States and also Union Territories of Delhi and Pondicherry. This component has 100 per cent funding from the Central Government.

### 2.2 Improvement of Crop Statistics(ICS)

The objective of this component is to improve the quality of statistics of area and production of crops through supervision and monitoring. Under this component, a sample check of area enumeration and crop cutting experiments of 10,000 villages and approximately 31,000 experiments at harvest stage are undertaken. These samples are equally shared by the Central Agency, i.e. National Sample Survey Organization and the State Agricultural Authorities. These checks specifically relate to (i) Enumeration of crop-wise area covered in the selected villages as recorded by the Patwari. (ii) Total of the area under each crop recorded in Khasra Register of villages and (iii) Supervision of crop cutting experiments at the harvest stage. This component is being implemented in all TRS States and the Union Territory of Pondicherry. The performance of the implementation of this component also is being closely monitored through Quarterly and Seasonal progress Reports.

### 2.3 Establishment of an Agency for Reporting of Agricultural Statistics (EARAS)

This component is being implemented in the permanently settled States of West Bengal, Kerala, Orissa and North Eastern States of Nagaland, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Tripura. Under this component, an agency has been established in these States for generating estimates of area and production of principal crops and land use statistics, on the basis of complete enumeration of 20% villages in each year. The performance of the implementation of the component is being closely monitored through Quarterly and Seasonal Progress Reports.

### 2.4 Crop Estimation Survey of Fruits, Vegetables and Minor Crops (CES-F&V)

This component is implemented to generate estimates of area and production of fruits and vegetables in the country. The component is being implemented in 11 States and a total of 14 crops are covered (7 fruit and 7 vegetables). The methodology developed by the Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI) is being used for generation of these estimates.

The different fruit and vegetable crops covered are: apple, mango, citrus, pineapple, grape, banana, guava, potato, onion, cabbage, cauliflower, tomato, ginger and turmeric. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh are covered under the component.

## **3. Forecasting Agricultural output using Space, Agro-meteorology and Land based observations (FASAL)**

The Crop Forecast Coordination Centre (CFCC), DES is implementing a central sector plan scheme “Forecasting Agricultural output using Space, Agro-meteorology and Land based observations (FASAL)” which is in operation since

August, 2006. The scope of work of the FASAL scheme involved developing i) econometric ii) Agromet and iii) Remote Sensing, based model to generate crop forecasts i) in the beginning of the season ii) during mid season of crop growth and iii) in the mid and pre-harvest stage of crop growth respectively, at National, State and District level. Thus, multiple forecast of 11 major crops namely Rice(Kharif & Rabi), Jowar(Kharif & Rabi ), Maize, Bajra, Jute, Ragi, Cotton, Sugarcane and Groundnut (Kharif & Rabi ), Rapeseed & Mustard and Wheat were envisaged at National/State/District level depending on the status of technology available.

In order to give further impetus to use of Remote Sensing in Agriculture, implementation strategy of the FASAL scheme was revised in March, 2011. The revised strategy *inter-alia* envisaged transfer of existing operational crop forecast and drought assessment Remote Sensing methodologies developed by ISRO to a new centre to be created in the DAC itself allowing ISRO to focus on R&D on the RS methodology for remaining crops and fine tuning of the existing RS methodologies on crop and drought assessment. In pursuance of the decisions contained in the approved SFC Memo of the FASAL scheme, the new centre “Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre” has commenced operationalizing the RS methodology transferred from ISRO as an separate attached office of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. Objectives / functions of the new centre are given as under:

### **Objectives/functions of NCFC**

*Mahalanobis* National Crop Forecast Centre (NCFC) has been created as an attached office of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation with a view to

prepare multiple in season crop forecasts and assessment of drought situation using state of the art techniques and methodologies for selected major crops. Objectives and functions of the Centre are given below:

- (i) Multiple forecasts of 11 major crops namely Rice (Kharif & Rabi), Jowar (Kharif & Rabi), Maize, Bajra, Jute, Ragi, Cotton, Sugarcane and Groundnut (Kharif & Rabi), Rapeseed & Mustard and Wheat at National/State/District Level.
- (ii) Operationalization of existing methodologies developed by ISRO regarding crop forecasts as part of FASAL and drought assessment based on National Agricultural Drought Assessment and Monitoring System (NADAMS) Project on immediate basis.
- (iii) Inclusion of additional crops in crop forecast and sub-district level moderate to high resolution drought assessment in the entire country in collaboration with ISRO within a period of 2 years from commissioning of the Centre.
- (iv) Development & refinement of crop forecasts and drought assessment based on current and future trends in satellite and related technologies within a period of 3 years from commissioning of the Centre.
- (v) Maintenance and statistical analysis of database comprising all data generated/used as part of the FASAL and NADAMS projects, forecast of results from India Meteorological Department (IMD), State Agricultural Statistics Authorities (SASAs), Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), ICAR etc. for making operational forecasts of selected crops and making the same available regularly to decision makers and identified users.



- (vi) Assimilation of results of crop forecasts information from the projects/programmes such as flood, drought monitoring etc. And generation of the required information.
- (vii) Evolution of the Centre to coordinate use of geomatics in other fields of agriculture such as cropping system, horticulture, soil and its health, rainfed area assessment & its management planning, estimation of damage due to natural calamities etc. by the end of XII<sup>th</sup> Plan period.
- (viii) In the long run, work towards assessing the crop prospects using remote sensing and geographic information system on a global level.

#### **4. Other activities:**

##### 4.1 Special Data Dissemination Standards (SDDS)

Under this activity, quarterly estimates of agricultural production are generated for use in the compilation of Quarterly National Accounts by the Central Statistical Office. This activity has been undertaken in order to meet the obligations concerning supply of data to the International Monetary Fund. The estimates of quarterly crop production generated are being furnished to the Central Statistical Office. In the absence of direct data, quarterly production is estimated by using the estimates of Kharif and Rabi seasons in conjunction with crop calendar. This is a staff oriented activity under the umbrella scheme.

##### 4.2 Market Intelligence and Price Analysis

The Directorate of Economics and Statistics collects retail prices of agricultural commodities from 87 designated centers, and compiles and disseminates them to various Ministries and Departments. The wholesale prices and market arrivals of agricultural commodities are also collected on weekly/monthly basis from 700 centres spread all over the country. Out of these price quotations, about 404

quotations on wholesale prices are disseminated to the Office of Economic Adviser, Ministry of Commerce and Industry for construction of Wholesale Price Index on weekly basis. International prices of selected agricultural commodities are regularly collected and disseminated through the publication of Agricultural Prices in India.

#### 4.3. Food Economics:

The main objective of the government's price policy for agricultural produce is to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with the view to encouraging higher investment and production and to safeguard the interest of consumer by making available supplies at reasonable prices. The price policy seeks to evolve a balanced and integrated price structure in the perspective of the overall needs of the economy. To achieve this end, government announces, each season, Minimum Support Price(MSP) for major agricultural commodities and organises purchase operations through public and cooperative agencies as Food Corporation of India(FCI) for Paddy, wheat and coarse cereals; Jute Corporation of India for jute; National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India(NAFED) for pulses and oilseeds; besides, other agencies designated by the state governments.

The government decides support prices for various agricultural commodities after taking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, views of state governments and central ministries, as well as such other relevant factors, which in the opinion of the government are important for fixation of support prices.

#### 4.4 Crop Acreage and Production Estimates (CAPE):

Under this component activity, area and production estimates based on Remote Sensing Technology are prepared for specified crops for the selected

states/districts and grants-in-aid are provided to Space Application Centre, Ahmadabad, for operationalising activities under this component.

#### 5.00 New Scheme:

### **5.1 Establishment of National Centre for Crops Statistics (NCCS):**

The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) constituted an Expert Committee on Improvement of Agricultural Statistics under the chairmanship of Prof. A. Vaidyanathan, Eminent Agriculture Economist with a view to – (a) look into the problems relating to the methodology and procedures followed for the collection/ estimation of data on land use, cropping and yields and suggest measures for improvement and (b) assess the potential of remote sensing techniques to collect these data and to indicate how to utilize this potential and (c) suggest institutional framework for improvement of agricultural statistics. This Committee submitted its report to the Government on 11.02.2011.

The Government accepted the recommendations of the Committee and propose to implement a new central sector scheme to set up National Centre for Crop Statistics (NCCS) during the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan Period. The new scheme i.e. NCCS will be independent of existing scheme on Improvement of Agriculture Statistics. A token provision of Rs.10.00 crore has been made during 2013-14.

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