Sub: “Assistance for Cultivation of Vegetables by Self Help Groups (SHG's)/ Individuals”.

The State Sector Scheme “Assistance for Cultivation of Vegetables by Self Help Groups (SHG’s)/ Individuals has been approved for implementation from the year 2015-16. The details of the scheme and approved pattern of assistance are as follows:

I. Duration of the Scheme:
The scheme will be operational from Rabi season 2015 onwards and will continue for 5 years or unless so directed by the Government.

II. Objectives:
1. Boost vegetable cultivation on commercial lines for higher yields and income generation.
2. Reducing the dependence on other States for meeting requirement of vegetables.
3. Utilise/ promote group farming through Self Help Groups (SHG's); User Groups (UG’s); Joint Liability Groups (JLG’s) and other Farmer Associations to overcome the constraints of small and fragmented holdings.
4. Enable share croppers, informal lease holders and socially as well as financially backward farmers to create infrastructure for vegetable cultivation.
5. Utilise the momentum imparted by the success of the State Scheme "Assistance for Vegetables with Assured Markets".
6. Bring back into cultivation land kept fallow due to wild growth, lack of irrigation infrastructure, protection from grazing by cattle etc.

III. Eligibility:
1. Traditional vegetable growers cultivating vegetables in at least 0.5 ha area as a group i.e. SHG/UG/JLG's etc.
2. Individuals cultivating at least 0.50 ha vegetables and possessing green Krishi Card.
3. Farmer Groups or individuals desiring to take up vegetable cultivation for the first time in at least 0.05 ha land which is presently fallow.
4. The Group may be Registered or not but should have a bank account in its name with at least three members jointly operating the account.
5. Farmers comprising the Group may be share croppers or informal (oral) lease holders or having legal right to cultivate the land.
6. Preference would be given to groups of share croppers/ informal lease holders already cultivating vegetables for some years.

IV. Pattern of Assistance:
1. One time assistance of up to Rs. 80,000/- (Rupees eighty thousand only) per hectare or proportionately as per the area proposed would be provided to the eligible vegetable cultivating groups or individuals on project basis for creating infrastructure for vegetable cultivation such as fencing, irrigation well (including repair of well), pumpset and pipeline; micro sprinklers; small agricultural machinery and implements for planting and inter cultivation, plant protection; harvesting and post harvest management;
shade net and trays for raising seedlings including coir pith and compost. Clearing of lands kept fallow for many years by using machinery and/or weedicides to make them cultivable would also be assisted.

2. The entire project would be assisted with 100% subsidy within the stipulated amount of Rs. 80,000/- (Rupees eighty thousand only) per ha area in four instalments as under:

i) I st instalment - 20% on approval of the project.

ii) II nd instalment - 40% on utilisation of 80% of initial released amount.

iii) III rd instalment - 30% on utilisation of 80% of previously released amount i.e. 60% of project cost.

iv) IV th instalment - 10% on completion of the project and cultivation of vegetables.

However, this will not apply to purchase of machinery including pumpset in which case the entire cost will be directly paid to the supplier who should be registered with Directorate of Agriculture.

3. Each beneficiary group would be provided assistance for a minimum 0.5 ha and maximum of 5.0 ha of vegetable cultivation area. Individuals would be provided assistance for minimum area of 0.5 Ha and for maximum of 1.0 Ha, except for first time cultivators of fallow land where the minimum area would be 0.05 Ha.

V. Guidelines and Procedures:

1. The interested farmer/ farmer group shall apply through the Zonal Agriculture Officer (ZAO) of his area to the Managing Director, Goa State Horticultural Corporation Ltd in the specified format along with rough
sketch of the area and location of the plot to be developed indicating therein location of fence and/ or well to be dug/ repaired (wherein applicable).

2. Though desirable, it will not be compulsory to furnish copy of land index or survey plan of the site.

3. However, all Farmer Groups must enclose a list of members with their signature; copies of minutes of meeting showing resolution taken to elect committee members/ office bearers; resolution taken to open bank account with three members who will jointly operate it; resolution taken to create the infrastructure alongwith the signature of all prospective member beneficiaries.

4. The local ZAO upon receipt and scrutiny of the application will orally intimate the Managing Director, Goa State Horticultural Corporation Ltd so as to fix a joint site inspection and verification schedule and then recommend the project if found feasible.

5. Preference would be given to existing Farmer Groups with good track record or those mentored by NGO’s from whom in case of earlier schemes no dues had to be recovered through Revenue Recovery Courts.

6. Upon sanction of the project by the Managing Director, Goa State Horticultural Corporation Ltd, an MOU on stamp paper of Rs. 50/- shall be entered into between the individual farmer/ authorised signatories of the Group and the Managing Director, Goa State Horticultural Corporation Ltd.

7. Release of instalments shall commence after signing of MOU.

8. Upon completion of the project, the beneficiaries shall inform local ZAO and MD, GSHCL who will get the same verified through their representatives.

Preference should be given to economically backward farmers and those belonging to SC/ST and farm women categories. Priority should be given to those
groups whose members do not have proper land documentation but have been regularly cultivating vegetables in the past and are willing to take up commercial cultivation of vegetables and supply the same to the Goa State Horticultural Corporation Ltd. (GSHCL).

(Orlando Rodrigues)
Director of Agriculture

To,
The Zonal Agricultural Officer (All) .............................................

Copy to,
1. The Managing Director, Goa State Horticultural Corporation Ltd. (GSHCL).
2. The Programme Coordinator, Krishi Vikas Kendra (South), Margao – Goa.
3. The Programme Coordinator, Krishi Vikas Kendra (North), Ela, Old – Goa.
4. District Agriculture Officer (North), Krishi Bhavan, Tonca - Caranzalem, Goa.
5. District Agriculture Officer (South), Old Collectorate Bldg, Margao – Goa.
6. Assistant Director of Agriculture (FT), Ela, Old – Goa.