

**ATAL DULLOO**  
**Joint Secretary & Mission Director**  
 ☎ - 24122936  
 ☎ - 24104386  
 @ - [jsrl-mord@gov.in](mailto:jsrl-mord@gov.in)



ग्रामीण विकास मंत्रालय  
 ग्रामीण विकास विभाग  
 भारत सरकार  
 कृषि भवन, नई दिल्ली 110114  
 Ministry of Rural Development  
 Dept. of Rural Development  
 Government of India  
 Kishi Bhavan, New Delhi-110114

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 December 29, 2015

Dear Sh. Fonia,

Since its launch NRLM has made significant progress in mobilizing the poor and vulnerable women into their institutions. NRLM has also supported these women SHGs through provisioning of revolving fund and Community Investment Fund (CIF) to take up livelihoods activities. Besides, NRLM has linked these SHGs to banks as well through its SHG Bank linkage program for enabling them to access easy credit.

As you are aware, *Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojna* was launched in 2010-2011 as a subcomponent of National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) to promote farm based livelihoods. With the launch of NRLM and gradual establishment of State Rural Livelihood Missions, it was envisaged that Ministry of Rural Development would integrate MKSP with the broader NRLM roll out plan in the states and MKSP will gradually converge with State's Livelihoods Plan. SRLMs would eventually integrate farm livelihoods in their Livelihoods Promotion Strategy as a part of their Annual Action Plan (AAP).

Though in the initial years the requirement of the programme was to focus on activities related to institution building and capacity building, it is now very important that livelihoods interventions are scaled up in all intensive blocks immediately. The strategic direction of NRLM, now onwards, should be focused on the promotion of livelihoods interventions in all intensive blocks. In this context this Ministry is also focusing on developing a clearly articulated strategy for scaling up livelihoods interventions, both farm and non-farm, in every intensive block in the Annual Action Plans of the SRLMs.

In this context this Ministry has developed an advisory (copy attached) in order to guide all SRLMs in developing their livelihoods strategy and implementation plan. We will also be holding a detailed dissemination workshop in early January to de-mystify the advisory and help states in thinking through the livelihoods strategies to be adopted.

With regards

Yours Sincerely,

(Atal Dulloo)

Encl.: livelihoods implementation advisory

Shri Vinod Fonia  
 Principal Secretary  
 Department of Rural Development  
 Government of Uttaranchal  
 Dehra Dun-248001.  
 खण्ड शासन



Since its launch NRLM has made significant progress in mobilizing the poor and vulnerable women into their institutions. NRLM has also supported these women SHGs through provisioning of revolving fund and Community Investment Fund (CIF) to take up livelihoods activities. Besides, NRLM has linked these SHGs to banks as well through its, SHG Bank linkage program for enabling them to access easy credit.

NRLM recognizes that the poor have multiple livelihoods and one of the key components of NRLM as envisaged in the NRLM Framework is enhancing and expanding the existing livelihoods of the poor. More than 70% of the rural poor are dependent on agriculture either as cultivators or as agriculture labour. Besides, livestock rearing is again a key livelihood of the poor. And in forest fringe areas NTFP is a major livelihood of with the poor, who mostly belong to tribal communities. The intervention strategy of NRLM for Farm based Livelihoods promotion is focused on strengthening these key farm livelihoods of the poor with the following objectives:

- Every poor household is supported on at least 2 farm sector livelihoods (agriculture, NTFP and livestock)
- Assured annual incremental income of more than Rs 50,000 per family per year after 2 years of intervention
- Year long food & nutritional security for the household created by themselves.
- Income streams throughout the year
- Creation of Social capital for agriculture, NTFP and livestock, from the best practitioners as extension workers

NRLM has been working strongly towards achieving these objectives and had launched Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) and Ultra Poor Strategy for livelihoods promotion.

There is now a strong need to intensify the livelihood intervention under NRLM and all the states are expected to seriously drive this agenda.

### Strategy and Implementation Plan

Under Farm Livelihoods interventions the core focus would be to promote sustainable agriculture, where the inputs are localized, risks are mitigated, productivity is enhanced, and food-nutritional security is ensured, hence net income of family is increased. In sustainable agriculture NRLM is focusing on agro ecology by promoting low cost sustainable practices such as Non-chemical Pest Management (NPM), Integrated Nutrient Management, inclusion of cultural practices, climate resilient practices, soil health improvement/ management, in situ water conservation, diversified poly crop model and promoting indigenous variety of seeds.

The interventions around NTFP are focused on building the capacity of the community in modern harvesting and post harvesting techniques to increase their income, promoting value addition of NTFP to ensure higher returns, developing value chain, promoting regeneration of NTFP species to improve the bio diversity and enhanced productivity, introducing better cultivation practices etc.

NRLM recognizes the importance of livestock especially the small ruminant and poultry in the livelihoods of the poorest and started developing strategy to integrate livestock in the primary sector livelihood strategy of NRLM. Livestock not only contributes to the income stream of the households and enhances the nutritional status of the rural poor household but also plays a vital role in conserving the bio-diversity. Besides, promotion of livestock helps in meeting the need of draught power, farmyard manure, and organic inputs requiring cow dung and urine etc. Major intervention outcomes envisaged are reduction of morbidity and mortality of livestock and thereby improving the body weight gain and productivity. NRLM would be engaged in aligning livestock activity as an integral part of farm sector livelihoods through community based institutions and creating a cadre of community service providers for delivering livestock and animal husbandry related services at the door step of the SHG members.

The visions have been developed for a ultra-poor household who have been intervened with and also for a village where the intervention has been taken up



- Focus on convergence and partnership for assetization, capacity building, knowledge management etc.
- Focus on sustainable climate change resilient practices which are local and scalable
- Scale up the successful models

Some of the important components of the roll out of farm livelihoods interventions by the SRLM would be:

- **Identification of Blocks and villages:** Each SRLM should plan the interventions in every Intensive Block. Within the Block state may work out a villages phasing plan and identify villages based on few objective criteria like extent of social mobilization, disbursement of RF and CIF, quantum of bank linkages, demand of assetization under IPPE II etc.
- **Putting a professional team in place at Block and State level:** Each state would position a professional team comprising professional from sustainable agriculture, Livestock and NTFP background.
- **Identification of Community Resource Persons:** The core strategy of intervention would be to deploy a team of Community Best Practitioners of agro ecology in every intervention village. This would require a large number of trained CRPs for reaching the scale that each state has to achieve. SRLMs may closely work with the MKSP partners from their state to identify and train a large pool of CRPs. A detailed list of each CRP and their deployment details may be maintained by the state.
- **Identification of resource persons for training of CRPs:** All the identified CRPs are to be trained intensively in various aspects of agro ecology. Besides, they are also to be trained in the use of audio visual aids like pico projectors while training. Therefore, each state would develop a pool of resource persons for training the CRPs who can be selected from MKSP partners, KVKs, NGOs and line departments. Community training is a very specialized area and necessary care must be taken while selecting the trainers. For training on audio visual aids, partnerships may be explored with NRLM Support Organizations.
- **Development of training modules:** To train the CRPs and also the community a large amount of training material would be required to be developed. Each SRLM has to prepare the training modules for which support may be taken from the MKSP partners, KVK, line departments and other resource organizations. NRLM has also developed a training handbook on Sustainable agriculture which is uploaded in our website. The same may also be used for the same.
- **Organizing training for TOT and CRPs:** The cutting edge for implementing the livelihoods strategy would be the deployment of highly experienced and properly trained CRPs chosen from among the community best practitioners. Therefore, the TOTs and the CRPs should be given repeated doses of training and every SRLM should prepare monthly and yearly training calendar for the same. These trainings should be organized preferably in the areas where field level demonstration can be arranged.
- **Preparation of annual action plan:** Each state has to prepare Annual Action Plan outlining the detailed action plans.

### Implementation Outline

#### **Geographic coverage**

It is logical and expected that the livelihoods interventions are initiated in all the intensive blocks including resource and partnership blocks where IB and CB activities have been started.

A large number of poor SHG members are going to be benefitted through improved agriculture assets from MGNREGA in the Blocks where IPPE II exercise has been taken up and NRLM has to work on enhancing the skills and capacities of the beneficiaries to maximize the utilization of these

- Increase in production and productivity
- Reduction of the input cost
- Increase in market linkages

Again this is an indicative list and not an exhaustive one.

**Funding:**

- All the training and capacity building related expenditure may be budgeted under IBCB budget head of NRLM/NRLP.
- Priority should be given while preparing MCP to those HH who are planning for assetization to take up these farm Livelihoods interventions. Besides, VO can set up Common Facility centre, Tool Bank, seed Bank from the CIF.
- In addition SRLM can submit their farm intervention plan through MKSP-AAP route.