

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR EXTENDING CASH INCENTIVES TO FARMERS/SELF HELP GROUPS/COMMODITY INTEREST GROUPS/FOOD SECURITY WOMEN GROUPS FOR UNDERTAKING FODDER GRASS CULTIVATION UNDER CROP PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY SCHEME

I. INTRODUCTION :

The major constraint in milk production in the Union Territory of Puducherry is low availability of fodder grass for the milch animals. In order to ensure availability of fodder grass for feeding expected cattle population for sustainable milk availability, it is very essential to increase area under fodder cultivation. Keeping this in view, the present scheme for distribution of cash incentives to farmers / Self Help Groups / Commodity Interest Groups/Food Security Women Groups for undertaking fodder cultivation and incentives also enhanced from Rs. 5000/- per acre to Rs. 8,000/- per acre per year, to motivate more farmers/Self Help Groups/Commodity Interest Groups/Food Security Women Groups to take up fodder grass cultivation and bring more area under fodder grass.

II. OBJECTIVES :

1. To increase fodder production and make available the various hybrid varieties of fodder grass to the farmers for feeding to milch animals which in turn increase the milk production and make the State self sufficient in milk production.
2. To stress upon the farmers the importance of feeding nutritive green grass and encourage them to stop the primitive practices of feeding only dry paddy straw.
3. To reduce the cost of feeding thereby reducing cost of milk production.
4. To encourage the farmers / Self Help Groups/Commodity Interest Groups/Food Security Women Groups to bring marginal land/ unused agriculture land under cultivation, thereby giving them a source of income and helping them self employment.
5. To make available fodder grass to the livestock all the year round.

III. PATTERN OF ASSISTANCE :

Cash assistance subject @ ₹ 8,000/- per acre for consecutive three years for cultivation of fodder.

IV. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA OF BENEFICIARIES:-

1. Any individual / farmer / Commodity Interest Groups (CIGs) under Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) / Self Help Groups / Food Security Women Groups.
2. Own land or lease land within the Union Territory of Puducherry.

3. The minimum area of land to be cultivated is 500 sq. mts. or 0.125 acre or 12.5 cents.
4. Perennial fodder grass recommended by the Department.

V. DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED FOR ESTABLISHING ELIGIBILITY :

1. Copy of the Aadhar Card/ Aadhar Registration details.
2. Copy of the Farmers Identity Card indicating land ownership (or) land documents in case Farmers Identity Card not obtained / Lease agreement in case of tenants.
3. Copy of front page of Savings Account Pass Book.

VI. MODUS OPERANDI

1. The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Puducherry shall make publicity through Mass Media, Uzhavar Udhaviyagam and Departmental website and create awareness among farmer / Commodity Interest Groups (CIGs) under Agricultural Technology Management Agency(ATMA) / Self Help groups / Food Security Women Groups about this component of assistance for cultivation of fodder crop to avail the subsidy. The farmer / Commodity Interest Groups (CIGs) under Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) / Self help groups / Food Security Women Groups of Union territory of Puducherry would be advised to get the prescribed application from Uzhavar Udhaviyagams / downloaded from website <https://agri.py.gov.in> and further advised to submit the duly filled in application along with the required documents mentioned in clause V as above to the Uzhavar Udhaviyagam concerned.
2. The Agricultural Officers (Uzhavar Udhaviyagam) shall maintain a separate register for the receipt of applications for conducting periodic field inspection to assess the progress of the fodder cultivation.
3. The application along with the required documents shall be scrutinized by the Agricultural Officer (Uzhavar Udhaviyagam) / (Food Security Group) concerned.
4. After scrutinization of the applications, the Agricultural Officers (Uzhavar Udhaviyagam / Food Security Group) concerned along with supporting staff shall visit the field proposed for perennial grass cultivation within 15 days. During the field visit they shall assess the availability of irrigation facility and suitability of the proposed land. They shall also suggest the suitable variety, quantity of planting material required and cultivation practices based on area and irrigation facilities available for cultivation of fodder grass.

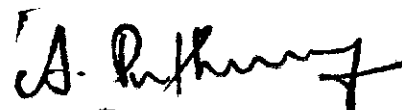
5. The Agricultural Officer (Uzhavar Udhaviyagam / Food Security Group) shall make compulsory inspection of the fodder cultivation at the end of each Agricultural season viz., Kharif (September) and Rabi (March) from first year of planting to third year.
6. Accordingly necessary inspection reports with recommendation of incentive claim amount and the photograph of the fodder plot shall be submitted for cross verification by Deputy Director of Agriculture / Joint Director of Agriculture concerned to Director of Agriculture.
7. The Beneficiary list shall be subjected to Social Audit under supervision of the Deputy Director / Joint Director of Agriculture Puducherry/Karaikal for inviting objection, if any and the final list of the beneficiary shall be approved by the Director of Agriculture, Puducherry/ Secretary (Agriculture).
8. The selected list of beneficiaries shall be hosted in the website of the Agriculture Department as well as in the notice board of Uzhavar Udhaviyagams for the information to the public.
9. Director of Agriculture, Joint Director of Agriculture and Deputy Director shall make random inspection of the fields as determined by Secretary (Agriculture). Secretary (Agriculture) would conduct periodic monitoring of the scheme.

VII. MODE OF PAYMENT

The final list of beneficiaries shall be prepared for each season and the expenditure sanction for disbursement of cash incentive to fodder grass growers will be obtained from competent authority as per extant rules. On obtaining the sanction from the competent authority the amount will be disbursed to the individual farmers/Groups through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

VIII. MONITORING / EVALUATION:-

The scheme shall be monitored by the Director of Agriculture as well as Secretary (Agriculture) periodically.



(A. PUNITHAMARY)

**UNDER SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
(AGRICULTURE)**