

NREGASoft : Strengthening National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) (<http://nrega.nic.in>) implementation

Introduction

Government of India through National Rural Employment guarantee Act 2005 aims to provide for enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult member volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

With afore stated governance business scope, initially in 200 districts which got subsequently extended to 330 and finally to all rural districts across the country, NIC, along with Ministry of Rural Development and other stakeholders, conceptualized web enabled management information system (i.e. NREGASoft) to address the planning & monitoring needs of scheme. Long association & experience of NIC with rural development processes and engagement with computerization of RD schemes at various levels proved to be valuable factor in designing NREGASoft. The first version of NREGASoft was launched along with the launch of the scheme.

NREGASoft is a local language enabled work flow based e-Governance system and is available in offline as well as online mode to capture all the activities under NREGA at Center/State/District/Block and Panchayat level. **NREGASoft** has been prepared and deployed at <http://www.nrega.nic.in>, by NIC in collaboration with Ministry of Rural Development. Each stakeholder can access relevant information through the portal. Highly customized interface is provided to each stakeholders of NREGA e.g an illiterate worker is provided with sound based, icon based, touch screen kiosk model to enter/access information on the portal to enforce the right based framework of law, the State, Districts and Gram panchayats have local language interface while the Ministry works in English language

1. Citizen
2. Gram Panchayats, Block Panchayats Zilla Panchayats
3. Workers
4. Programme officers
5. District Programme Coordinators
6. Engineers
7. Bank/post offices
8. Implementing agencies other than PRIs
9. State RD Departments
10. Ministry of Rural development and administrators in Government of India

An Act to provide for the enhancement of livelihood security of the households in rural areas of the country by providing at least one hundred days of Guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.



National Rural Employment Guarantee Act - 2005
Ministry of Rural Development
Govt. of India

HINDI VERSION

NREGA ACT 2005

NREGA DISTRICTS

GUIDELINES

SEARCH:

Citizen

Panchayats
GP/ PS/ ZP

Workers

Other Impl.
Agency

District /
Block Admin.

States

Bank /
Post Office

MoRD

Administrator

ANDHRA PRADESH

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

ASSAM

BIHAR

CHHATTISGARH

GUJARAT

HARYANA

HIMACHAL PRADESH

JAMMU AND KASHMIR

JHARKHAND

KARNATAKA

KERALA

MADHYA PRADESH

MAHARASHTRA

MANIPUR

MEGHALAYA

MIZORAM

NAGALAND

ORISSA

Citizen



National Bulletin

Employment provided to households: 2.7 Crore

Persondays [in Crore]:

| | |
|---------|----------------|
| Total: | 98.26 |
| SCs: | 29.37 [29.89%] |
| STs: | 25.27 [25.71%] |
| Women: | 47.79 [48.64%] |
| Others: | 43.62 [44.4%] |

Total works taken up: 17.34 Lakhs.

Works completed: 4.57 Lakhs.

Works in progress: 12.77 Lakhs.

NREGAsoft MIS

- Report from MIS
- Send Backup File(Block Level)
- Send Backup File(Panchayat Level)
- Data sent and upload Status
- User Manual-MIS(NREGA)

Communication

- Detailed instruction on planning of work and preparation of labour budget
- Minutes of the round table on NREGA with IITS,IIMS etc.
- ICT Infrastructure at Block Level
- Minister's Speech - Part I^{NEW}
- Notice for Meeting
- Circulars
- Conference/Workshops
- Award Scheme for CSOs
- Invitation of Expression of Interest on National Help Line

Vision and Objective of the Project

- **NREGAsoft** envisions facilitating e-Governance by enabling IT based implantation of NREG Scheme across State, District and three tiers of Panchayati Raj Institutions
- It envisages empowering the common man using the information technology as a facilitator.
- **NREGAsoft** provides information to citizen in compliance with the right to information Act (RTI Act). It makes available all the documents like Muster Rolls, registration application register, job card/employment register/muster roll issue register, muster roll receipt register which are inaccessible to public otherwise.
- Facilitate faster information exchange between the various stakeholders through the network.

6. Project Description

Taking forward the onus of crafting an efficient implementation of the NREGS, the **NREGAsoft** captures the information right from the registration of the worker. It provides linkages with the household survey known as BPL survey 2002 which captured information about each person and family in the rural area.

3. **Works Management Module**
Captures the complete life cycle of the works undertaken under NREGA



Works in progress under NREGAS

4. **Grievance Redressal System** allows all stakeholders including illiterate worker/Citizen to lodge complaint and trace the subsequent response.
5. **Staffing Position module** strengthens communication and co-ordination among various stakeholders
6. **Cost Estimation Module** makes detailed estimation for the works taken up under NREGA e.g. construction of Tank, Well, Sluice Gate, Earthen road, kharanja etc.
7. **Knowledge network/ Solution exchange** provides a common platform to all stakeholders to exchange their views, pose queries to other stakeholder/**Experts** and get responses, exhibit their best practices.
8. **Social audit module:** This module captures the details of the social audit done in various Gram panchayats
9. **Bank/Post office modules** allows the financial institutions to get information about wages to be paid to the workers and enter the details of amount credited in their accounts.
10. **Labour budget module** helps the Gram panchayats in planning for the next financial year and help Ministry to decide on the amount to be released depending upon their future projections of labour demand and works to be taken up.

Technology to meet the challenges

NREGAsoft is getting implemented in 614 Districts, 6000 blocks and around 2.3 lakhs Gram Panchayats with different languages, poor Infrastructure and poor Connectivity. Thus necessitated software which was cost effective and could overcome the language, connectivity and platform barrier.

- **NREGAsoft** is available in online as well as in offline mode overcoming the barrier of connectivity.
- It is Unicode enabled and supports all local language thus addressing the language barrier.
- Software is available in Microsoft technologies as well as open source technologies.

- **Services provided**

- **G2G**

All transaction between all NREGA stakeholders are captured in the system. So all G2G services are IT enabled.

- **G2B**

Data from NREGA is shared with bank/post offices, E-Lekha, GRS ,RSBY, BPL Census 2002 etc.

- **G2C**

- Issue of job card
- Acknowledgement of dated receipt of demand
- Work site allocation slip
- Pay slip
- Redressal of grievances

- **C2G**

A local language enabled sound and icon based Kiosk model has been developed for workers to use the system and exercise their rights by their own.

- Demand for job
- Lodge grievance

Benefits accrued

- E-Governance for Masses
- Enforcement of right based framework of law
- Creation of directory of assets created under NREGA
- Bringing all documents e.g. 4.7 crore Muster rolls, 11 crore job cards and 24 crore worker's information in public domain
- Strengthening the record keeping and financial accounting
- Assists Gram Panchayats in NREG Scheme Implementation
- Assisting the officers, Administrators, Programme Managers

Data Management at Grass root level:

NREGASoft was first of its kind eGovernance solution attempt which took data management practices below block level in online mode across the country in absence of eGovernance infrastructure availability at Gram Panchayat level where actually majority of events related to NREGS implementation takes place. The data management of NREGS, in majority of states is being done at block level. The majority of states started managing data using offline and a few with online. As connectivity scenario is improving further, some of the states are switching over to use online system. The states have adopted various kinds of models (in house using its own staff, using contract data entry operator, outsourcing data entry, arranging entire ICT infrastructure at block level through private parties etc) to address the need of content management.

Capacity Building Measures:

The team at NIC Headquarter has been engaged in preparation of NREGASoft package and in deployment (training on domain issues, offline/online package and handholding) of the application, in active collaboration with NIC-State/ District Units across the country. Training methodology included face-to-face training at state and district level and utilization of VC and e-learning technologies.

Recognition

It is unavoidable to share some of the moments when collective work done by the Ministry, NIC and other stakeholders were recognized on various platforms and won appreciation. The package has been demonstrated to Hon'ble Prime Minister and senior functionaries of Government, Planning Commission officials, State RD secretaries. The package has also won several awards :

- Microsoft e-governance award 2006
- Skoch Challenger Award 2007-National Significance Category
- Dataquest e-Gov Champions award 2008
- e- Asia award 2009
- National award for e-governance 2009-2010 for Best government website

. Also, it is satisfying to note that package has demonstrated that the data management could be done effectively from Blocks online now. Which has inspired & encouraged the design of many other e-governance projects that are in pipeline.

10 Current status of the implementation

The project is getting implemented in :

- No. of States : 32
- No. of Districts : 596
- No. of Blocks : 6388
- No. of Panchayats : 240233
- No. of job card issued : 11.29 crore
- No. of persons Registered : 24.88 crore
- No. of Muster rolls filled : 4.7 crore (from 2006-2007 till date)

Road Ahead

The collective efforts have achieved something and lot more need to be done in days to come. There are technology options under active consideration whose intervention could possibly make NREGS implementation better for Job seekers, common man and society at large. These areas include use of smart Card and biometric devices for Authentication of job seekers/wage earners, e-Muster roll by using mobile devices to capture daily attendance of worker, e-Payment by using smart card, biometric devices, ATM etc. Online & Offline Multimedia based training packages in local languages could be adopted for regular training programmes to

enhance awareness of functionaries of local governments on NREGS in general and NREGASoft in particular. Rural Informatics has come to stay and prosper further to facilitate Rural Development in India.

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