F. No. J-11014/1/12/2016 MGNREGA (IV)
Government of India
Ministry of Rural Development
(MGNREGA Division)

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi

To

The Commissioner (MGNREGA),
Government of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Odisha,
Rajasthan, Telangana, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh


Sir/Madam

The proceedings of the National Workshop on CFT held on 14-15th June at Ranchi is enclosed for your perusal. In continuation with the decisions taken at the National Workshop, you are requested, to furnish the following by 25th July 2016:-

(i) Copy of latest review on CFT project at State level
(ii) Submission of detailed Action Plan on CFT
(iii) Status of State level workshop on CFT.

2. The MoRD will extend all possible support for the planning and conducting of CFT workshop to review functionaries and CSO partners in the project blocks of the State. In case of any clarification, you may communicate to Ms. Inayat, Programme Officer at inayat.sabhikhi@undp.org.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. Suparna S. Pachouri)
Director (MGNREGA)

Encl: as above
14th June 2016

I. The group of participants were split into two groups for the exposure visit to Raidih block and Bassia block. The first activity was a meeting at the village level with the women collectives, CFTs, Gram Panchayat and Block level functionaries. The village level activities undertaken by the CFTs in the Yojana Banao Abhiyan were presented. The changes brought with by the introduction of the CFT was explained. These included:

i. Change in the nature of works planned for and executed labour intensive water conservation works.
ii. Increase in accessibility of field level functionaries such as the Panchayat Sewak and Gram Rozgar Sewak for workers.
iii. Knowledge of the benefits associated with farm pond construction and its livelihood linkages.

II. This was followed by an interaction with the women SHG mate & women collectors regarding training and the challenges on the job, reasons for delays in wage payments, processes of Rozgar Diwas and the idea of a seasonality sanctioning calendar.

III. The following were the suggestions and feedback put forward by the women collectives;

i. Increase in MGNREGA wage rate for Jharkhand
ii. Bringing internet and electricity to the Gram Panchayat level
iii. Increasing the number and capacity of banks
iv. Dedicated person in banks for MGNREGA wage disbursements

The village level interaction was followed by visits to MGNREGA worksites/assets including dobhas, goat shed and wells.

IV. The meetings at the block and district level were facilitated by the State. The following were discussed:

i. Initial challenges faced in the CFT project
ii. Utility of CFTs for the Block Development Officer and block level functionaries
iii. Functions performed by the CFTs
iv. Functioning of Block Coordination Committee meetings

15th June 2016

The agenda for the workshop on the second day was as follows; introductory remarks by the Principal Secretary, Rural Development Department, Government of Jharkhand, followed by remarks of the Joint Secretary, MGNREGA, Ministry of Rural Development, followed by a presentation by MGNREGA Commissioner, Government of Jharkhand, presentations by each of the states and an open discussion with the CSOs. The following main points were raised in workshop:
I. Principal Secretary, RDD, Govt of Jharkhand;
   i. Yojana Banao Abhiyan emerged from the CFT in the state. Civil Society Organisations assisted in the execution of the campaign.
   ii. The State Dept recognised the need to work with people and in partnership with CSOs. As a result, ideas on types of works to prioritise and seasonality sanctioning have emerged from people themselves.
   iii. A lot of efforts from the State Dept was put into orienting the administration on the benefits of the CFTs.
   iv. CFTs are particularly useful for demand side interventions such as job card applications and registration of demand.

II. The following were the policy recommendations;
   i. A clear national articulation on the role of NRLM in the CFT project.
   ii. Strengthened CFT Secretariat at the Centre and State levels.
   iii. Monitoring of CFTs on the persons employed and their expertise.
   iv. The allocation of more blocks to Jharkhand and the saturation of all blocks in the CFT project.

III. Joint Secretary, MGNREGA;
   i. Overall performance of Jharkhand has improved over the last year with the programme being understood and driven at all levels.
   ii. The understanding of BDOs as CFTs as a supplementary support structure was demonstrable.
   iii. Other states are to learn from this experience and develop a clear road map for their respective states.
   iv. Each state is to develop state specific deliverables as has been done by Rajasthan and Jharkhand and customise it to their context.
   v. Where as 9 member team drawn from CSOs is not possible, then at least 1 Young Professional deployed through SRLM can be thought of.
   vi. The entire dossier on the Jharkhand CFT and MGNREGA experience will be shared with all participants.

IV. MGNREGA Commissioner, Govt of Jharkhand
   i. The innovations undertaken by the State Government on overall MGNREGA implementation were shared. The two key strategies was the decentralisation of sanctioning guidelines and the women SHG mates.
   ii. The detailed monitoring strategy of the state was shared, along with the impact of the project on scale of employment, percentage of active workers, gender composition of CFTs etc.
   iii. It was noted that the efforts of the state dept. will now be to decentralise the monitoring of the project to the district level.

V. The following decisions were taken regarding the state wise presentations;
   i. Each State to submit an action plan within three days indicating the interest of the state government to continue with the project. If this is not provided, blocks will be reallocated.
ii. State CFT Cells will be allowed for 3 states; Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan.

iii. Based on the learnings from Jharkhand, each state is to hold similar workshops at the state level after orienting all field functionaries and CSOs. Representatives of MoRD and Government of Jharkhand will extend all support in this matter.

VI. The following points were raised in the open discussion with CSOs;

i. There is lack of response from the state government with respect to reviews, coordination and timely fund release to CFTs.

ii. There has been discrepancy in the planning done by the CFTs as part of IPPE 2 and the labour budget entered into NREGASoft.

iii. Plans related to line departments or convergence works are not honoured as per priority.

iv. The proposal for inclusion of bio gas tank construction in list of permissible works was submitted.

v. Request for State Governments to activate block coordination committees which are a key platform to resolving implementation issues.

vi. Apart from the modes of capacity building and monitoring, the CFT project should be located in a larger framework of CSO engagement with government.

vii. Further blocks should be sanctioned so that there are sufficient number of blocks for the State Department to be invested in reviewing the project.

viii. The case of the MGNREGA Sahayta Kendra was discussed and provision for incentives to the staff of the Kendra through CFT programme funds.

ix. FES has submitted proposals for 7 blocks in the following states; Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

The following dossier of material of the experience of Jharkhand on the CFT project shared with all partner states:

2. Standard Operating Procedure on CFT
3. Circular on mango plantation
4. Circular on mate guidelines
5. Circular on revised sanctioning guidelines
6. Checklist for dobha review
7. Model Estimates issued by State Govt.
8. Note on Strategy for monitoring
9. Presentation on monitoring by State Govt.
10. Presentation on processes followed
11. Draft MoU with CSOs for 2nd and 3rd years