



*National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj – North Eastern Regional Centre
(NIRDPR-NERC)*

Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India
Guwahati, Assam

***National Workshop on
MGNREGA - Climate Resilient Approaches: Prospects and Challenges
21st – 23rd November, 2023***

CONCEPT NOTE

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREG Act, 2005) is a flagship programme of the Department of Rural Development under the aegis of the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India. The programme aims to strengthen the livelihood security and resource based of the vulnerable section, by guaranteeing hundred days of wage employment in a financial year to rural households. MGNREGA focuses on the vulnerable population and follows a bottom-up approach from the stage of planning to approval.

There are 260 permissible works under MGNREGA of which, 181 are associated with natural resources management and 164 are related to agriculture and allied activities, most of these works are critical from the perspective of climate resilience. Evidence has shown that impacts of climate change will be felt most acutely by the people whose livelihoods are most dependent on natural systems.

Natural resource based solutions are the basic element of life, livelihood, food security and sustainable development that holds the key to sustainability. The availability of fertile soil, ecological biodiversity, and safe water is a major concern due to the rapidly increasing population, urbanization, unsustainable consumption patterns, and rapid shifts in land use. The threat of climate change in lowering farm productivity has step up investment in agriculture due to that small and marginal farmers are unable to cope with the changes. Climate change is leading to irregular precipitation, more floods and droughts and creating an imbalance between soil and water vis-à-vis productivity and availability, respectively. It is believed that land degradation and reduced access to quality water will have cascading consequences that will pose threat to food and livelihood security, and cause large scale migration resulting into economic and geopolitical tensions.

These challenges offer opportunities to develop and promote food and livelihood security that have greater environmental, economic and social resilience to risk. The ministry of rural development is reviewing the works done under MGNREGA has any significant contribution to the rule life, economy and can it be used to mainstream the climate agenda into development and contribute to building resilience.

Hence, the main objective of the workshop will be to deliberate the climate resilience practices through MGNREGA and its convergence with other programs addressing the prospects and challenges for creating eco-restoration assets under the programme. The specific objectives of the workshop are:

1. To identify key interventions under MGNREGS for creating eco-restoration assets to address climate change issues;
2. To discuss climate resilient approaches for designing MGNREGS assets; and
3. To prepare the action plan addressing the challenges and adaptation of Climate resilient approaches in implementation of MGNREGS

Workshop Themes:

The workshop will be organised under four themes which can bring in the convergence of schemes with MGNREGA, Watershed management under PMKSY, agricultural development and climate smart villages. The details of the themes are as follows.

1) Convergence of MGNREGA with other Centrally Sponsored Schemes

The Government of India has initiated various policies and programmes to address concerns of Rural Development. Ministry of Rural Development has created productive, durable and quality permissible assets to alleviate poverty and sustain rural livelihoods through Mahatma Gandhi NREGS. Technical, Sectoral and financial Convergence of MGNREGS with line departments have created both tangible and non-tangible benefits. Construction of series of water harvesting and conservation structures in convergence with forest department has revived dried-out rivers in Arunachal Pradesh. Spring-shed of Sikkim is worth mentioning as part of convergence. The theme captures such success stories and strategic plans carried out through MGNREGS convergence.

2) Integration of MGNREGA with NRM activities through watershed approach

Natural Resource Management (NRM) has been an important component of MGNREGA to promote sustainable livelihoods for the disadvantage sections. Nearly about 60 percent of expenditure has been allocated for the creation of natural resource based assets. Water harvesting and conservation structures created to improve the adaptive capacity of villagers to the vagaries of monsoons and frequent droughts. Water resources have been impacted due to MGNREGS works across the States. The papers submitting under this theme need to emphasis on planning, implementation and impacts of the assets.

3) MGNREGA in promoting climate smart villages/ climate resilience

MGNREGS is not only a safety net but also created large numbers of individual and community soak pits that has made villages' clean and protected rural community in augmenting rural ecosystem functions. Promotion of vermicomposting pits have facilitated in improving soil fertility and organic farming. Solid Waste management projects in villages in support of Swatch Bharat Mission have transformed the face of the villages. Bio-gas plants implemented under MGNREGS Convergence have addressed the issues of Greenhouse gases emission. Authors have to consider the adaptation and mitigation strategies adopted in promoting climate smart villages including flood and landslide management strategies undertaken through MGNREGS.

4) MGNREGA impact on the agricultural sector

Agriculture productivity has been given due importance through permissible works under MGNREGA. Category – B assets have enhanced agricultural productivity and farmer household income besides, several other non-tangible benefits. Mizoram and Assam convergence plan with Agriculture Department, North East Development Council is tremendous. Authors can focus on the nature of assets created either through MGNREGS alone or in convergence, quality and durability of assets, number of family benefited, employment opportunities, etc

Target Group: Senior and middle level officers implementing MGNREGS programme, Academician and Research scholars of reputed institution etc. representing pan India.

Expected outcomes: The proposed output of the workshop would be a comprehensive publication on MGNREGA - Climate Resilient Approaches Prospects and Challenges. The book will benefit the administrators and academicians to design the MGNREGS works for creating eco-restoration assets - its viability and sustainability. It will also provide insights on policy strategies and future research themes.

Duration: Three days

Venue: The programme will be organised at NIRD & PR – NERC, Guwahati

Team: Dr. V. Suresh Babu, Dr. T. Vijaya Kumar and Dr. R. Murugesan

Course fee and last date:

There is no course fee for all the categories of participants. Free boarding and modest lodging facilities will be provided in our Guest house for State Government officials. Academicians and research scholars will be provided twin share accomodation on payment basis. Participants are entitled to report a day in advance and leave a day after the conclusion of the programme. DA &TA as may be admissible will have to be borne by the respective departments/Institutions. **All nominations should reach the Workshop organizer by 15th September, 2023.**

Abstracts should reach on or before 22.09.2023

Full Paper should reach on or before 20.10.2023

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