

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**Q 1: What is Operation Greens Scheme?**

A: A Central Sector Scheme with total budgetary allocation of Rs. 500 Crore for the integrated development of Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) value chain, being implemented by MoFPI.

As per scheme guidelines, the scheme has **two-pronged strategy** as under: -

**(I) Short term: price stabilization measures (Transportation & Storage - 50% subsidy);**

During the glut situation at the time of harvest, evacuation of surplus production from the producing area to the consumption centres will be undertaken.

**(II) Long term: integrated value chain development projects (grant @ 50% {70% for FPOs & SC/ST} of eligible project cost subject to max. Rs. 50 Cr);**

Pilot projects will be implemented in selected 3 to 4 clusters for each TOP crops in major producing States for development of integrated value chain. Farmers in the production clusters will be organized into FPOs to manage production, post-harvest activities, value addition and marketing of the TOP produce.

**Components of Integrated value chain development projects**

- a) Formation & Capacity Building of FPOs
- b) Quality production
- c) Post-harvest processing facilities - At Farm Gate
- d) Post-harvest processing facilities - At Main Processing Site
- e) Agri-Logistics
- f) Marketing / Consumption Points

*The last date for submission of proposal for setting up of integrated value chain development project has been extended to 30.09.2020.*

**Q 2: Why was it extended from TOP to Total?**

A: Due to restriction imposed on account of COVID-19, the supply chain has been disrupted and farmers are not able to sell their produce in the market. Hon'ble Finance Minister has announced on 15.05.2020 in the third tranche of measures for revival of the economy as part of Atmanirbhar Bharat Package Announcements that the Operation Greens will be extended from Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) to ALL fruits and vegetables (TOTAL) to provide 50% subsidy on transportation and storage.

**Q 3: How will farmers benefit under the Scheme?**

A: Individual farmer or group of farmers meeting the essential criteria of the Scheme, can directly register under the Scheme and submit the online claim after carrying out the transportation and/or storage of eligible fruits and vegetables as per the provisions of the Guidelines.

Small farmers, who do not meet the essential criteria can apply for subsidy under the Scheme through Group of farmers, FPO, Co-operatives and State Marketing Federation/Board.

With the subsidy of storage, the farmers can have stored their produce for few months to avoid the distress sale. Similarly, if they are not able to sale at APMC/Mandies, buyers such as processors, retailers, exporters etc. will directly come to them to procure their crops to avail subsidy under the scheme.

**Q 4: How will food processors benefit under the Scheme?**

A: Food Processors are named as one of eligible entity to undertake intervention under the scheme. However, for them, eligible quantity for procurement of crops for subsidy purpose will be capped with reference to installed capacity of their processing plant.

The subsidy on transportation and/or storage of raw materials will reduce the cost of production for the food processor, which will make their products competitive and attractive in the market.

**Q 5: Which are eligible entities under the scheme?**

A: Food Processors, FPO/FPC, Co-operative Societies, Individual farmers, Group of Farmers, Licensed Commission Agent, Exporters, State Marketing/ Co-operative Federation, Retailers etc. engaged in processing/ marketing of fruits and vegetables.

**Q 6: Whether Traders are allowed as an eligible applicant for claiming subsidy under the Scheme?**

A: No, Scheme Guidelines clearly provides the name of eligible entities, which does not include traders. However, Licensed Commission Agent, Exporters and Retailers are eligible entities for claiming subsidy under the Scheme.

**Q 7: How can people apply under the Scheme?**

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A: People can register under the scheme by visiting the Ministry's website. After successful registration, they will be directed to the page where the important documents like scheme guidelines, list of eligible crop, production clusters and trigger price and Online application template. After satisfying themselves about meeting the essential criteria of the Scheme, they can directly undertake the transportation and/or storage activity without prior approval of the Ministry and submit the online claim for release of subsidy to the Ministry.

**Q 8: What is minimum quantity of crop to be procured and transported/ stored?**

A: Minimum quantity to be procured and transported/ stored per applicant (*may consist of one or more than notified crops*) will be as under:

- a. 50 MT for Individual farmers;
- b. 100 MT for FPO/FPC, Co-operative, Group of farmers;
- c. 500 MT for Food Processor, Exporter, Licensed Commission Agent;
- d. 1,000 MT for Retailers, State Marketing/ Co-operative Federation;

**Q 9: What is minimum distance for transportation from production to consumption centers?**

A: The minimum distance from notified production clusters to point of sale, processing plant, retail outlet, or ports/ airport/ICD/CFS in India, as the case may be (by road, railway or air):

- a. 100 Km for Food Processor, FPO/FPC, Co-operative, Individual/Group of farmer, Licensed Commission Agent, Exporter;
- b. 250 Km for Retailers, State Marketing/ Co-operative Federation;

**Q 10: What is the Trigger Price for intervention under the Scheme?**

A: Price in the notified production clusters meets any one of the following conditions:

- a) Prices fall below preceding 3 years' average market price at the time of harvest;
- b) Prices fall more than 15% compared to last year market price at the time of harvest;
- c) Prices fall less than the benchmark price for procurement, if any, fixed by the State/Central Government for a specified period

Trigger price is higher of these three prices and it is the price at or below which the crops are being sold in that production clusters. The actual purchase price should be equal to or less than the trigger price for being eligible for subsidy. *The list of eligible crop, production cluster and trigger price is available in the Ministry's website -*

<https://mofpi.nic.in/Aatmanirbhar-Bharat/Operation-Greens-%28TOP-to-Total%29/list-of-crops-clusters-trigger-prices>)

**Q 11: Which are major fruits and vegetables that are covered?**

A: **Fruits-** Mango, Banana, Guava, Kiwi, Lichi, Papaya, Mousambi, Orange, Kinnow, Lime, Lemon, Pineapple, Pomegranate, Jackfruit, Apple, Almond, Aonla, Passion Fruit and Pear;

**Vegetables:** - French beans, Bitter Gourd, Brinjal, Capsicum, Carrot, Cauliflower, Chillies (Green), Okra, Cucumber, Peas, Garlic, Onion, Potato and Tomato.

**Q 12: From whom the crops should be procured by the eligible entities?**

A: Procurement to be made directly from farmers, FPO/FPC, Co-operative Society or Licensed Commission Agent and payment should be made only through banking channel.

**Q 13: Whether crop can be procured from aggregators/local traders?**

A: No, procurement has to be made directly from farmers, FPO/FPC, Co-operative Society or Licensed Commission Agent and payment should be made only through banking channel.

**Q 14: Is payment in cash for procurement, transportation/storage admissible?**

A: No, payment for procurement, transportation and storage charges should be made only through banking channel;

**Q 15: Where can the crops be stored?**

A: Crops can be stored at any suitable Storage such as licensed warehouse or Cold Storage, located at notified production clusters, consumption centers or any place en-route consumption center.

**Q 16: Whether purchases done before June 11 will also be allowed?**

A: No, for claiming subsidy registration on the portal is mandatory, which has been started from 11/06/2020.

**Q 17: Whether it will be extended after 6 months?**

A: Based on the evaluation of impact of the Scheme, the decision regarding its extension will be taken.

**Q 18: What is the maximum amount of subsidy?**

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A: Maximum admissible subsidy amount per applicant will be Rs. 1 crore during the entire period of 6 months.

**Q 19: Is submission of Weighbridge Receipt at only the origin place is admissible for the subsidy claim?**

A: Weighbridge Receipt at both places i.e. origin & destination is mandatory. In case of non-availability of weighbridge, applicant can submit the Weighbridge Receipt generated at the close proximity of the origin and destination place.

**Q 20: Is submission of geotag photograph at only the origin place is admissible for the subsidy claim?**

A: Geotag photograph at both places i.e. origin & destination is mandatory. In case of mobile network issue, applicant can submit the Geotag photograph generated at the close proximity of the origin and destination place.

**Q 21: Whether sourcing from contract farming is allowed as mode of procurement of crops?**

A: Yes, Procurement of crops can be done through contract farming.

**Q 22: Whether part payment of transporter and part payment to truck owner towards transportation charge is admissible under the Scheme?**

A: Yes, provided the transport invoice can establish the relationship between the two i.e., transporter and transport owner and both payments are made through banking channel.

**Q 23: Whether storage in ripening chamber of crops such as banana/mango etc., will be treated at storage in cold storage for subsidy purpose?**

A: Subsidy admissible only on Transportation and storage, not any incidental or ancillary activities such as loading, unloading, pre-cooling, ripening activities etc.

**Q 24: Whether taxes, such as GST and/or other taxes levied at State/Central Level admissible for subsidy?**

A: No, taxes, such as GST and/or other taxes levied at State/Central Level will not be considered for the purpose of subsidy.

**Q 25: Whether new crop and/or new production cluster can be added in the list?**

A: Yes, with the recommendation of respective State Government along with requisite details of production and average price data during peak harvesting period for last three years, the same will be considered by Ministry.

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**Q 26: Whether FASTag account statement can be submitted in place of toll tax receipts?**

A: Yes, due to prevalence of FASTag facility at toll plazas, FASTag account statement can be submitted in place of toll tax receipts.

**Q 27: Whether transport from farm gate to collection centre/pack house (*within cluster/outside cluster*), and then to consumption centre/ market is eligible transportation subsidy under the Scheme?**

A: Transportation from farm gate to collection centre/pack house may also be considered irrespective of their location inside/outside cluster, provided it also meets the minimum distance criteria separately.

**Q 28: Whether the transport of fresh onion from Container, which is loaded in Port, will be treated as transport by refer van?**

A: No, transportation rate of fresh onion will be limited to the transport charge for the normal truck.

**Q 29: Whether the applicant can undertake activities prior to registration but after the date of notification of the Scheme i.e., 11/06/2020?**

A: Scheme requires prior registration on the portal. However, this may be considered for some applicant category namely Individual farmers, Group of farmers, FPO, Cooperatives and State Marketing Board.

**Q 30: Whether exporter, the required supporting documents should be minimised, particularly requirement of Weighbridge receipt and Geotagged photo at destination place should be removed?**

A: Geotag photo and weighbridge receipts are mandatory documents. In case of non-availability of weighbridge, applicant can submit the Weighbridge Receipt generated at the close proximity of the origin and destination place. Similarly, in case of mobile network issue, applicant can submit the Geotag photograph generated at the close proximity of the origin and destination place.

**Q 31: Whether transportation by individual farmers from their farm gate to the Mandies in the production clusters, which meets the minimum distance of 100 KM requirement, is eligible for subsidy?**

A: Transport within the clusters is eligible subject to meeting of minimum distance criteria for all category of applicants.

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**Q 32: Whether single railway receipt, which is being issued against transport of crops by few farmers together, can be accepted as supporting documents for subsidy claim?**

A: Usually entire rack consisting of 40 wagons is booked by one party, which aggregate the crops from different transporting parties. Railway allows only one name for sender and therefore, only one name for consignee appears in Railway Receipt. In such case, we can accept the claim with the following supporting documents:

- i. Agreement/MoA between the applicant and the consignee as per RR showing the crops details, proportionate payment towards railway freight, including bank details;
- ii. Transaction voucher - Demand raised by consignee as per RR to the applicant for payment of proportionate freight amount;
- iii. Bank Statement showing payment to consignee as per RR;
- iv. Duly counter signed copy of RR (*signed by Consignee & Applicant, both*)

**Q 33: Whether names and Aadhar number of each and every farmer from whom crop has been procured is to be entered into the Online Application Form?**

A: Applicant can enter the details of major 10 farmers and upload the list of farmer's detail on the Online Application Form as pdf file.