

Record of Discussion – VC meeting with Registered Applicants from Southern India under extended Operation Greens Scheme – TOP to Total on 15.07.2020 at 03.00 PM under chairmanship of Additional Secretary, FPI

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary, FPI to review the status of implementation of the scheme Operation Greens from TOP to TOTAL as a part of AatmNirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

2. At the outset, Chairman welcomed the participants and intimated the purpose of the meeting.

3. DD (SSA) made power-point presentation about the Scheme to the participants. Copy of PPT placed opposite. Regarding procedure for submission of claim for subsidy, it was informed that no prior approval is required from the Ministry. The eligible applicant has to first register themselves in the Ministry's portal under the scheme and thereafter have to satisfy themselves with regarding to meeting of essential criteria prescribed in the Guidelines. Thereafter, they can undertake procurement of eligible crops from notified clusters, if the prevailing price is less than the trigger price mentioned in the List of eligible crops, selected surplus production clusters and trigger price for intervention under the Scheme (available on our website under circular section).

4. After presentation, there was question/answer session. The following important questions were asked by the participants during the meeting.

- I. Whether lemon is eligible crop for claiming subsidy under the Scheme – It was clarified that Scheme Guidelines includes Citrus as eligible crop. The individual crop under Citrus category is being worked out and will be notified shortly.
- II. Whether transport from farm gate to collection centre in small vehicles is eligible transportation subsidy under the Scheme – It was clarified that only transportation from production centre to consumption centre in organised transportation fleet, for which necessary supporting documents are available is admissible under the scheme.
- III. Whether State level federation of FPOs can apply under the scheme - It was informed that FPO/FPC includes the State Level Federation of FPO and they can also apply under the Scheme subject to meeting of essential criteria prescribed in the guidelines.
- IV. Whether the online retailers are eligible under the Scheme – It was informed that the Scheme Guidelines provide for Retailers as one of the eligible applicant. Regarding submission of claim by Online Retailer, it was clarified that if the firm itself undertake the entire operation from procurement at clusters level, transportation/storage, to sale at consumption centre and meets the condition of scheme guideline, then they can apply under the Scheme for consideration.
- V. Whether sourcing from contract farming is allowed as mode of procurement of crops – It was clarified that procurement of crops can be done through contract farming.
- VI. Many participants expressed difficulty in submission of 2 Weighbridge receipt, one at farm gate (loading in truck) and another at consumption centre (unloading from truck) – It was clarified that application form require to

upload both weighbridge receipts. However, in case of genuine reason of non-availability of both receipts, one may be uploaded with giving proper justification.

- VII. Whether transport from farm gate to collection centre, and then to consumption centre/market is eligible transportation subsidy under the Scheme – It was clarified that only transportation from production centre to consumption centre is admissible under the scheme.
- VIII. Regarding export of onion through Railway/Road from Kolkata to Dhaka, it was clarified that transport subsidy under the Scheme is available for exporter from production cluster to the ports/ airport/ICD/CFS in India only.
- IX. Some participants stated that many drivers don't have smart phone & internet connectivity, therefore the geotag photographs may not be difficult – It was clarified that it is mandatory requirement and uploading of geotag photographs showing both front & backside of vehicle at the time origin and destination in the application form is must.
- X. Whether part payment of transporter and part payment to truck owner towards transportation charge is admissible under the Scheme – It was clarified that it is admissible if the transport invoice can establish the relationship between the two.
- XI. Whether the transport of fresh onion from Container, which is loaded in sea will be treated as transport by refer van – It was clarified that usually for fresh onion transportation, normal truck is used. Mode of transportation for the purpose of export will be discussed with APEDA and suitable clarification will be issued by the Ministry.
- XII. Whether storage in ripening chamber of crops such as banana/mango etc., will be treated at storage in cold storage for subsidy purpose – It was clarified that the same is not allowed as ripening is not storage.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.
