GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Agriculture Department – Formulation of a new Society under the Societies Act for Community Managed sustainable Agriculture initiative – Orders – Issued.

AGRICULTURE & COOPERATION (FP.II) DEPARTMENT

G.O. Ms. No. 121   **Dated:16.05.2011.**
                                                             Read:

Note dated 31.3.2011 from the Principal Secretary to Government(RD), Panchayat Raj & Rural Development, Govt. of A.P., Hyderabad.

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ORDER:

Department of Agriculture has set up the Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) in each district with the objectives of identifying location specific needs of farming community and to fulfil them through a coordinated action of NGOs and Government. By working with the communities and promoting sustainable agriculture, ATMA is expected to empower the farmers and make agriculture remunerative.

2.   In the reference read above, the Principal Secretary to Government, Rural Development Department has reported that RD Department have been working on improving productivity of small, degraded farms of the rural poor which has become the prime strategy for expeditious poverty reduction. Under the Work Bank aided APRPRP, they have been working for the past 6 years with the SHG federation in changing the system of agriculture to make it low cost and high return enterprise. The model works on reducing dependence on external inputs like chemical pesticides and fertilizers; and use natural forms to regenerate the land, which are naturally empowering, heralding a gradual switch over to an organic system. Together with the poly-crop model and soil/moisture conservation, this package named, community Managed Sustainable Agriculture (CMSA) could end poverty in least time. The focus of CMSA is on community managed extension system and is essentially a farmer centered movement, with special focus on small and marginal farmers, tenants, agricultural labour and women farmers. Transfer of technology is through community based local best practicing farmers. It was found that through this method, the incomes of the rural poor farmers have substantially increased, and in many cases, they have reaped higher prices for pesticide-free products. Having extended its implementation in 25 lakh acres, it was proposed that it should be mainstreamed and strengthened by appropriate backward and forward linkages for which a separate multi-disciplinary society is proposed to be constituted.

3.   Government have decided in order to promote sustainable agriculture there has to be synergy between SERP and Agriculture Department and towards this direction, the following are ordered:

a) Rural Development and Agriculture Departments would work together to reduce the cost of cultivation and move towards a pesticide-free cultivation across the State by converging at the District Level.

b) Rural Development Department will give training to the ATMA staff on the CMSA model and would sensitise the ATMA members about working with the SHG groups and rural poor.

c) Where SERP is already implementing the programme working with the SHGs, they will continue the work till the logical end of ushering in organic cultivation.

d) In all other villages, the ATMA staff, after due training of the CMSA system, would work with the SHG federations and other farmers to popularize the low cost, high return agriculture.

e) Under STMA, projects will be undertaken to provide infrastructure for backward and forward linkages to the farmers practicing the organic/natural farming.

4. The Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, Hyderabad and Chief Executive Officer, SERP, Hyderabad are requested to take steps to implement the above decisions and work towards improving the incomes of the farmers in general and small and marginal farmers in particular.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

V. NAGI REDDY
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Commissioner & Director of Agriculture, Hyderabad.
The Chief Executive Officer, SERP, Hyderabad.

Copy to:

The Panchayat Raj & Rural Development (RD) Department.
P.S. to Minister(Agri.)
SF/SCs

//Forwarded::By Order//

SECTION OFFICER