Government of Himachal Pradesh
Department of Agriculture

No. Agr-B-F(1)1/2018 Dated: Shimla-2, the 14.5.18

NOTIFICATION

The Governor of Himachal Pradesh is pleased to introduce a new scheme namely Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF)/ Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kissan in the State of Himachal Pradesh with immediate effect. The Guidelines for implementation of the said scheme is annexed at Annexure "A".

By order

Additional Chief Secretary (Agr.) to
Government of Himachal Pradesh

Endst. No. As above Dated -2 14.5.18

Copy to following for information and necessary action:-

1 The Secretary to the Governor, Himachal Pradesh
2 The Private Secretary to Chief Secretary,Himachal Pradesh
3 All Administrative Secretaries to the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
4 All Divisional Commissioners in Himachal Pradesh.
5 All Heads of Departments in Himachal Pradesh.
6 All Deputy Commissioners, H.P.
7 Registrar, CSKHPKV, Palampur, Distt.Kangra.
8 Registrar, Dr. Y.S.Parmar Univ of Horticulture and Forestry, Nauni, Distt Solan, H.P. He is further requested to direct the concerned Officer to join his duties at new assignment immediately.
9 The Managing Director, HP State Agricultural Marketing Board, Khalini, Shimla-2
10 The Under Secretary(GAD) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh w.r.t. cabinet item No 4 of the meeting held on 08.05.2018,
11. Guard file.

Project Cell
16/5/18

(Naresh Thakur)
Joint Secretary(Agr.) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh

Director of Agriculture, H.P.
1014
17.5.18
Central Dairy

Annexure "A"

GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF "PRAKRITIK KHETI KHUSHHAL KISSAN" SCHEME IN HIMACHAL PRADESH.

Growing awareness of health and environmental issues in agriculture has focused on production of safe food which is also emerging as an attractive source of rural income generation. While trends of rising consumer demand for safe natural products are becoming evident, sustainability in production of crops has become the prime concern in agriculture development.

The world foodgrain production is to the extent of 2100 million tonnes roughly which is generally based on farming where adequate use of fertilisers and pesticides are in practice. Plants require 17 essential nutrients regardless of sources, including organic and plant absorbs nutrient in inorganic form.

First global fertilizer industry was established in 1842 in London and in India first factory was established in 1906 in Tamilnadu manufacturing Single Super Phosphate. Thus chemical fertilizer industry is only 112 years old in India where as our agriculture is 10000 years old. Farmers using high doses of chemical fertilizers have started experiencing that crop productivity is not increasing after certain level rather it is declining. Also lot of plants on road side or on hill side or on desert or forest are surviving with huge biomass years after years without use of any fertiliser. Thus natural farming supporters are of the view that Promotion of mineral fertiliser is the brain of industry only.

In the green revolution era, the use of plant protection chemicals including all pesticides like fungicides, insecticides, weedicides were used extensively to protect plant from pest and diseases. The argument behind using pesticide is that with the intensive agriculture, the problems of insect pests and diseases are taking complex shape and posing serious challenges. So the use of pesticides during last few decades has emerged as one of the essential agro-inputs to increase and sustain crop yields. Scientific surveys and evidences indicate that particles of pesticides, sprayed or used over crops leave undissolved and harmful elements which are transferred to human and other living bodies through grains, vegetables, fruits and grasses, causing a number of diseases, ailments and harmful effects on our health. To overcome the ill effects of chemical based farming, organic farming was advocated. But Organic farming is also proving to be costly and farmers are again falling in trap of industry. Thus a more sustainable farming system is required which can enhance farm income and also reduce dependence on external inputs. Some facts on chemical based farming and organic farming are:

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1. Crop produced with chemicals are not good for health, contains heavy metals, causes several diseases and it pollutes the environment
2. The compound annual growth rate in yield of important crops in India is going to decline gradually even after use of Chemicals.
3. The efficiency of fertiliser is not more than 50% and balance is lost due to leaching which ultimately leads to soil and environment pollution.
4. Plant also uses nutrients from organic sources through mineralization and billions of microorganisms are available in soil for this job.
5. Excess and indiscriminate use of inorganic fertiliser has deteriorated soil badly with deficiency of macro and micronutrient.
6. Organic farming require large quantity of organic fertiliser which is difficult to obtain. Organic fertiliser may also contain heavy metal if it is purchased from outside.
7. The productivity of organic farming may be less in initial years and farmer may suffer financial loss.
8. Organic produce contains more vitamins, minerals, enzymes, trace elements and even cancer fighting antioxidants compare to conventionally grown food.

To overcome the ill effects of chemical based farming as well as organic farming, introduction of zero budget natural farming-a concept suggested by Padam Shri Subhash Palekar, is a viable and sustainable option. As per concept, all essential as well as micronutrients required by the crop/plants are present in soil but are in unavailable form. Plant use nutrients from soil through mineralization and billions of microorganisms are available in soil for this job. But continuous use of chemical fertlisers and pesticides has reduced population of these useful microbes and need to be rejuvenated. Cow dung and urine of domestic Indian cows is good source of these microbes and its use has given promising results.

Thus to reduce cost of cultivation and enhanced farm income, department of Agriculture HP has decided to implement Zero Budget Natural farming under new scheme called **"PRAKRITIK KHETI KHUSHHAL KISSAN"** .

VISION:

To enhance farm income in harmony with nature by adopting low cost climate resilient Zero Budget Natural Farming System.

Objectives:

1. To promote climate resilient farming in harmony with nature.
2. To reduce cost of cultivation and to make farming a sustainable viable livelihood option.
3. To improve soil fertility, porosity, water infiltration, water holding and soil micro flora & fauna.
4. To discourage use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides.
5. To prepare package of practices for different crops.
6. To reduce environmental and aquatic pollution.
7. To create awareness amongst farming community and society about natural farming.

Nodal Department:

Department of Agriculture Himachal Pradesh would be nodal department for Zero Budget Natural Farming and Director Agriculture would be the Nodal officer.

Scope :

Scheme will cover all programmes and activities being implemented by the department for promotion of organic farming viz. Promotion of organic farming under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna, Establishment of vermicomposting (State Plan), Pramparagat Krishi Vkas Yojna (PKVY) or any other scheme where related components are being implemented. Extension Reforms scheme being implemented by the State under National Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology would also be implemented through the state unit on Zero Budget Natural Farming.

Administrative Structure

1. An **Apex State Level Committee** for monitoring of Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh would be constituted and notified separately which will include Hon'ble Ministers and Administrative heads of Agriculture and allied Departments as members. Additional Chief Secretary (Agri.) would be the Member Secretary of the said Committee.
2. The **State level Task Force** headed by the Chief Secretary to the Govt. Of HP had already been notified for promotion of Organic Farming in Himachal Pradesh.
3. **State Project Implementing Unit (SPIU):** A dedicated state unit would be set up in the Directorate of Agriculture. Sate level unit would be responsible for planning, implementation and monitoring of the programme. **State level unit is proposed as under:**

i.	State Project Director -	One (to be appointed by Govt.)
ii.	Executive Director -	Two (to be appointed by Govt.)
iii.	Experts from other Departments/ Universities on secondment basis.	
iv.	Deputy Director (Agri./Hort.)	- One
v.	Subject Matter Specialist (Agri./Hort.)	- One
vi.	One post from Animal Husbandry Department of Veterinary Officer to Deputy Director level	- One
vii.	Agriculture Development Officer	- One
viii.	Horticulture Development officer	- One
ix.	Consultant Training	- One
x.	Digitization & Mass Media Consultant	- One
xi.	Sub-Editor or Equivalent Consultant or Secondment	- One
xii.	Assistant Public Relation Officer or Equivalent Consultant or Secondment	- One
xiii.	Assistant System Analyst	- One
xiv.	Senior. Assistant.	- Two
xv.	Senior Scale Stenographer	- One
xvi.	Junior Office Assistant (IT)	- Four
xvii.	Class IV	- Four
xviii.	Vehicles/Taxis on Hire basis	- Two

Additional Posts as stated above would be created in addition to existing strength of the department. Wherever feasible, some posts can also be filled up on secondment/deputation basis or even through

outsource agency. Technical staff is to be provided training on ZBNF immediately after selection.

4. **District Unit : For District units, in seven districts having dominant agricultural activities the unit will be constituted and scheme implemented by department of Agriculture and for remaining five, the department of Horticulture will constitute the unit along with scheme implementation.** District unit will implement and monitor the programme at District level and will function under the control of Deputy Director of Agriculture/Horticulture, who will report to the State Unit (ZBNF). **District Project unit is proposed as under:**

Subject Matter Specialist	One
Agri. Dev. Officer/Hort. Dev. Officer	One
Junior Office Assistant (IT)	One

Posts mentioned above would be additional to existing staff strength of the Department.

At District level, the ATMA Governing body headed by respective Deputy Commissioner would also monitor implementation of this scheme on monthly basis.

5. **Block Unit**: Block technical team (BTT) constituted under Extension Reforms Scheme (ATMA) will be the coordinating unit for the ZBNF at block level. BTT will select the clusters in consultation with the district unit and coordinate for different activities. Members from respective departments will ensure alignment of activities under different schemes to promote ZBNF. Chemical farming is to be discouraged in ZBNF clusters and no promotional programmes for chemical farming would be organized in the selected/adjoining area. Member/officer from Animal Husbandry Department would ensure availability of Indian cow germplasm to cluster and adjoining farmers on priority. Priority would also be given to ZBNF farmers for providing improved implements and machinery, micro irrigation and other inputs which are helpful in promoting ZBNF. Agriculture Development Officer and Agriculture Extension Officer of the area concerned would be responsible for implementation and promotion of ZBNF in the selected area and will maintain liaison with Block Technical Team. **One Data Entry operator would be provided at Block level for maintaining records.**
6. **Cluster Level:** In first phase, Clusters selected for promotion of organic farming under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) and Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna (PKVY) will be converted to ZBNF

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and programme would be extended to other areas in phased manner. Institutional structure exists in these clusters and same will be used for promotion of ZBNF. ***For implementation of ZBNF, Progressive farmers would be selected per cluster and will be trained in ZBNF. These farmers will be the key resource persons at cluster level and based on their performance, they can be further designated as cluster resource persons for utilization of their services in other clusters. Suitable model would be developed at cluster, block and District level for implementation of the programme.***

7. **Role of NGOs:** Non- Governmental organizations, Farmer Societies or other agencies working in the field of Organic Agriculture or Natural farming would also be involved suitably in implementation of Natural Farming/ZBNF promotion and certification.
8. **Development of literature:** Department will use the available literature developed by other agencies after suitable modification. Improving the content would be regular feature based on experiences and lessons learnt during implementation. Suitable audio-visual material would also be developed and used for technology dissemination. Necessary infrastructure would be provided for implementation of the component.
9. **Pay and Allowances :** Pay and allowances including TA/DA as per existing norms of State Government would be applicable. If particular category does not exist in the Department, in that case the proposal relating to pay structure has to be submitted to the State Government.
10. **Mobility & Connectivity:** As programme is purely field based, mobility and connectivity are back bone for success of the programme. Two vehicles at state level would be provided for mobility at state level. Mobility at district level would be allowed as per requirement.
11. **Documentation and Video-Recording:** Documentation of activities and success stories would be a regular feature. State ZBNF unit would short list the agencies for documentation of best practices, success stories etc. Short videos finalized by the agency and State unit would be released to extension agencies for popularization of ZBNF.
12. **Capacity Building:**
    i. **Officers/Officials:** Officers/officials working at different levels, would be trained in ZBNF. These officers/officials would be further deputed for implementation of the programme in their respective area.
    ii. **Progressive Farmers:** ZBNF clusters would be redefined with in organic clusters established under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) and Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna (PKVY). Progressive small and marginal farmers would be selected per cluster and will be trained in ZBNF. Based on performance of these farmers, they can be further designated as Samooh

Karyakarta or Samudayik karyakarta. Farmer once trained may not necessarily be designated as classified resource person, but performance would be main criteria for selecting farmers as resource persons. Proposed clusters may include farmers who are not practicing organic farming but they fall within the perview of proposed cluster to have 100% coverage of farmers.

iii. **General Farmers:** All farmers in the selected cluster would be trained in ZBNF by the trained farmers and ZBNF team. Trained Progressive farmers will motivate and provide complete handholding support to other farmers in adoption of ZBNF and would be supported by district ZBNF team. Initially farmers may not put their 100% land under ZBNF, but may be convinced to practice ZBNF in smaller unit and may cover the total area in phased manner.

iv. **Mass awareness:** Department would organize mass awareness programmes on ZBNF involving suitable resource persons. Large group of farmers would be invited to attend the programme.

13. **Kisan Goshthis:** State and District Unit would organize kisan goshthis at District and block level to educate farmers about natural farming. Respective SAUs and KVKs will also be associated in district and block level programmes. Universities would also organize programme on ZBNF awareness in their respective campus.

14. **Refinement and revalidation of technology, development of Package of Practices:** Chaudhary Sarwan Kumar Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Palampur and University of Horticulture and Forestry Solan will conduct trials on ZBNF and would develop package of practices for different crops. KVKs may also be involved to develop location specific technology. Location specific ZBNF mixed cropping models would also be developed by both the Universities.

15. **Multiplication of Domestic cow breeds:** ZBNF is totally based on domestic cow breeds and availability of high yielding domestic cow breed germplasm would be ensured by Animal Husbandry Department. Preference would be given to the Districts selected for ZBNF implementation. However these breeds would also be popularized in other districts. Department of Animal Husbandry would submit separate work plan to ensure availability of domestic cows in selected Districts and other areas.

16. **Incentives to farmers:**

i. **Assistance to farmers**: Each ZBNF farmer in the cluster would be provided assistance for establishing infrastructure for ZBNF inputs. Maximum amount of assistance would be finalised by the State task force on organic & Natural farming based on proposals submitted by State ZBNF unit.

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ii. **Prakritik kheti Sansadhan Bhandar**: In a selected cluster, every farmer may not be having Indian cow. Also all farmers may not prepare required ZBNF inputs. Thus to ascertain easy availability of ZBNF inputs, one shop per village would be facilitated. Practicing ZBNF farmer having Indian cow would be owner of the shop and will sell ZBNF inputs to needy farmers on nominal cost. One time assistance would be provided to the shop owner for procurement of some external inputs, equipments, packaging, drums, containers, rent etc spread over three years.

iii. **Lining of cattle Sheds:** Cow dung and urine are important raw material for preparation of ZBNF inputs. To facilitate efficient collection of Cowdung and urine, ZBNF farmers would be provided assistance for lining of cattle sheds and construction of urine collection system. Rate of assistance and norms would be worked out by the State ZBNF unit and approved by State Task Force.

iv. **Pest control:** ZBNF will help in restoration of natural balance and population of friendly microbes will increase over time which will take care of harmful pests. But initially it may not be possible. Keeping in view the budget assurance for the year 2018-19 to discourage chemical pesticides, The Department of Agriculture and Horticulture would not supply chemical pesticides to the farmers and hence the budget kept for this purpose would be utilized for providing assistance to the farmers for purchase of bio-pesticides, sticky traps, pheromone traps etc.

v. **Fertility Management:** Zero Budget natural Farming would be implemented in the state in phased manner and 100% farmers will not be covered at first instance. Thus to facilitate other farmers who are practicing organic farming, assistance would be provided on organic inputs approved by the certification bodies.

vi. **Organic certification:** Organic certification is important to sell the produce in the market and assistance for Internal control System and certification would be provided to the cluster of farmers who are already organically certified. New ZBNF clusters would be considered for certification programme as per availability of marketable surplus in the cluster or group of clusters. Separate cost norms would be worked out for the certification in new clusters and suitable organic certification system would be followed.

vii. **Work plan:** Annual work plan would be prepared every year by district units. District plans would be compiled by the state unit and State Task force on organic farming will finally approve the work

plans. Work plans will focus on covering whole state under Natural Farming in phased manner.

17. **Approval of Work plans and financial Norms:** Government has notified State Task Force on Organic & Natural Farming headed by the Chief Secretary which would consider and approve all proposals related to implementation of ZERO BUDGET NATURAL FARMING. Financial proposals would be implemented after concurrence of State Finance Department.

18. **Financial norms under "Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kissan" Scheme:**

Literature: Literature available with different agencies working on Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) would be provided to farmers and extension workers. Sufficient literature would be made available for distribution.

Digital Media: Digital media would be used suitably and technological packages in digital form would be developed and used for technology dissemination.

Farmer Motivators: One Practicing farmers (Samooh Karyakarta) from the cluster would be selected and his/her services would be used for motivation and dissemination of technology within group. In addition one Samudayik Karyakarta would also be selected for monitoring and specialized hand holding support to Samooh Karyakarta and farmers for 4-5 clusters. These motivators would be paid honorarium as per model adopted by Andhra Pradesh Government.

Capacity Building of Extension Staff: ZBNF is new concept being introduced in the state hence training to extension workers is very important and hence, extension staff would be trained in ZBNF.

Training to Farmers: Farmers would be trained in Zero Budget Natural Farming or other concept of natural framing. Training would be conducted at District, State and National Level as per ATMA Guidelines.

Mass awareness Campaign: It is proposed to organize mass awareness programmes for the farmers by involving experts.

Kisan Goshthis: It is proposed to organize kisan goshthis at District and Block level to promote Natural Farming.

Cost norms as per ATMA scheme would be followed for Capacity building, Mass awareness campaign and Kisan Goshthis.

Assistance to farmers: It is proposed to incentivize farmers for development of basic Infrastructure and off farm inputs etc. on the following cost norms :

1. Lining of cowsheds: 80 % assistance would be provided for lining of cattle sheds which would facilitate collection of cow dung and urine.
2. Plastic Drums for input Preparation: 75% assistance is proposed for providing drums to farmers. Maximum three drums would be provided to individual farmers.
3. Pest Control: It is proposed to provide 75% assistance for pest management. Assistance would be available for physical and biological methods of control available.
4. Certification: To facilitate marketing of the products grown by ZBNF farmers, Participatory Guarantee System / third party certification would be adopted. Assistance for Internal Control System and Certification would be provided as per GOI guidelines.
5. Prakritik Kheti Sansadhan Bhandar: One farmer in each village would be incentivized to open one shop for supply of ZBNF inputs at Nominal rate. One time assistance of Rs 50000/ per Shop spread over three years would be provided. Such farmers would also be eligible for other incentives available under the scheme.

Resource persons/experts involved in capacity building / mass awareness programmes/ Kisan Goshthis would be eligible for honorarium.

Administrative Expenses: New project unit at State and District level for promotion of ZBNF will be set up. Thus new infrastructure is required to run the programme.

Any other component presently not covered in this guideline would be implemented as per Andhra Pradesh State Guidelines/norms.