

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 813
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09TH FEBRUARY, 2024

LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION IN FARMING PRACTICES

813. SMT. RAJANI ASHOKRAO PATIL:
SMT. RANJEET RANJAN:
DR. AMEE YAJNIK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is planning to invite Expressions of Interest (EoI) and proposals from Agri-techs, Startups, etc., to collaborate and share their expertise;
- (b) in what manner Government intends to shape and provide opportunities for Agri-Tech entities, considering the challenges they face, such as the lack of reliable data and strategic guidance; and
- (c) the composition and role of the screening committee constituted to evaluate innovative solutions impacting the well-being of farmers?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

(SHRI ARJUN MUNDA)

(a) to (c): Yes, the government acknowledges the significant potential of the Agri-Tech industry in driving the transformation of food systems and enhancing the efficiency and profitability of small farms. Further, various initiatives and policies have been introduced to promote technological advancements in agriculture, recognizing the role of Agri-Tech in addressing challenges and fostering sustainable agricultural practices. The government has laid the initiatives to establish a Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) for Agriculture, incorporating standardised Registries, Krishi Decision Support System, Agri Data Exchange, Consent Manager, Sand Box and a Unified Farmer Service Interface (UFSI). This initiative aims to enhance interoperability and convergence of efforts, fostering the development of applications in the agricultural sector using emerging digital technologies. Further, to complement these efforts and create opportunities for public-private partnerships, a Screening Committee has been constituted to invite Expressions of Interest from non-government entities and to recommend suitable entities for collaborative work with government. The copy of the order of constitution of Screening Committee is given at Annexure.

Z-11023/9/2022-Digital Agriculture
Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
(IT Division)

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
Date: 28/06/2023

Order

Subject: Screening Committee for leveraging agricultural innovations for farmers' welfare in the country - regarding

A Screening Committee for leveraging agricultural innovations for farmers' welfare is hereby constituted with the approval of the competent authority.

2. The composition of the committee is as under:

| Sl. No. | Designation | Position (Chairman/Member) |
|---------|--|-------------------------------|
| (i) | Additional Secretary (Digital Agriculture), DA&FW | Chairman |
| (ii) | AS & FA or their representative | Member |
| (iii) | Joint Secretary (Credit), DA&FW | Member |
| (iv) | Joint Secretary (Extn.), DA&FW | Member |
| (v) | Adviser, (MNCFC) | Member |
| (vi) | DDG ICT (ICAR) in charge of Digital Agriculture | Member |
| (vii) | Director, MNCFC | Member |
| (viii) | Representative from o/o Pr. Scientific Adviser | Member |
| (ix) | Representative from Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog | Member |
| (x) | Representative from Invest India | Member |
| (xi) | 3 relevant experts from IITs/IIMs/IIITs/Universities | Member |
| (xii) | Two Industry Experts (to be nominated by the Committee) | Member |
| (xiii) | Any Special invitee (with the approval of Secretary (DA&FW)) | Member |
| (xiv) | Director (Digital Agriculture), DA&FW | Member Secretary |

3. The Screening Committee shall invite Expressions of Interest from Non-Government entities to participate in the program. During the consultative process, the Committee will seek presentations from such entities in order to identify the specific technologies in targeted interventions relevant to the Indian agriculture sector that have the potential to be scaled up. The Committee shall examine the concept, value proposition and action plan of the idea to understand the potential feasibility

[Handwritten Signature]

and its scalability. A detailed note on framework of leveraging agriculture innovations for the farmers' welfare is enclosed herewith for ready reference.

4. The committee will recommend suitable entity(ies) for collaborative work with the Ministry for collaborative projects on the field with the intention of applying the learning/knowledge and capability to scale up.
5. The travel expenses towards non-official member(s)/ non-official Special Invitee(s) including airfare, local travel, sitting fee, etc., as applicable in the Government of India, will be borne by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India.
6. The tenure of the committee would be for a period of five years from the date of its constitution.
7. This issues with the IFD's concurrence (vide e-file no 119426 dated 21.06.2023) and approval of the competent authority.

Encl.: As above.

Manoj Kumar Gupta
28/06/2023
(Manoj Kumar Gupta)
Adviser

Tel: 011-23384309

Email ID: manojk.gupta@nic.in

To

1. Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India and Chairman, Technical Committee - with a request to nominate your representative.
2. CEO, NITI Aayog - with a request to nominate a Representative from Atal Innovation Mission
3. Secretary (DPIIT) & Chairman, Invest India - with a request to nominate a Representative from Invest India
4. AS&FA, DA&FW- with a request to nominate your representative.
5. Joint Secretary (Credit), DA&FW.
6. Joint Secretary (Extension), DA&FW.
7. Advisor (Digital Agriculture), DA&FW.
8. DDG (ICT) DARE/ICAR.
9. Director, MNCFC.
10. Director (Digital Agriculture), DA&FW

Copy to-

1. PS to Hon'ble Agriculture Minister.
2. PS to Hon'ble State Ministers(s).
3. Sr. PPS to Secretary, DA&FW
4. Sr. PPS to Secretary (DARE) and DG (ICAR)
5. Sr. PPS to AS&FA, DA&FW
6. Sr. PPS to AS (Digital Agriculture), DA&FW.
7. PS to Advisor (MNCFC), DA&FW.

Copy for information to all Divisional Heads, DA&FW

Z-11023/9/2022-Digital Agriculture
Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
(Digital Agriculture Division)

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
Date: 4th August, 2023

Order

Subject: Screening Committee for leveraging agriculture Innovations for farmers' welfare in the country – regarding.

In supersession of this ministry's orders dated 28.06.23 (copy enclosed) on the subject cited above and to convey the revised composition of Screening Committee, which is reproduced below:

| Sl No. | Designation | Position (Chairman/Member) |
|--------|--|----------------------------|
| 1 | Additional Secretary (Digital Agriculture), DA&FW | Chairman |
| 2 | AS &FA or their representative | Member |
| 3 | Joint Secretary (Credit), DA&FW | Member |
| 4 | Joint Secretary (Extn.), DA&FW | Member |
| 5 | Advisor, (Digital), DA&FW | Member |
| 6 | Advisor, (MNCFC), DA&FW | Member |
| 7 | DDG, ICT (ICAR) in charge of Digital Agriculture | Member |
| 8 | Director, MNCFC | Member |
| 9 | Representative from O/o Pr. Scientific Adviser | Member |
| 10 | Representative from Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog | Member |
| 11 | Representative from Invest India | Member |
| 12 | 3 relevant experts from IITs/IIMs/IITs/Universities | Member |
| 13 | Two Industry Experts (to be nominated by the Committee) | Member |
| 14 | Any Special invitee (with the approval of Secretary (DA&FW)) | Member |
| 15 | Director (Digital Agriculture), DA&FW | Member Secretary |

2. The terms & conditions of earlier orders dated 28.06.23 shall remain same.
3. The issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Encl.: **As above.**



(Chandan Kumar)
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Tel: 011-23382926
Email: us-it@gov.in

To,

1. Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India and Chairman, Technical Committee
2. CEO, NITI Aayog
3. Secretary (DPIIT) & Chairman, Invest India
4. AS&FA, DA&FW.
5. Joint Secretary (Credit), DA&FW.

6. Joint Secretary (Extension), DA&FW.
7. Advisor (Digital Agriculture), DA&FW.
8. Advisor(MNCFC), DA&FW
9. DDG (ICT) DARE/ICAR.
10. Director, MNCFC.
11. Director (Digital Agriculture), DA&FW

Copy to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Agriculture Minister.
2. PS to Hon'ble State Minister(s).
3. Sr. PPS to Secretary, DA&FW
4. Sr. PPS to Secretary (DARE and DG (ICAR)
5. Sr. PPS to AS&FA, DA&FW
6. Sr. PPS to AS (Digital Agriculture), DA&FW.