

Convergence of **MGNREGS** with other Schemes in the Area

A Resource Booklet for MGNREGS Functionaries:



Designed and Developed by WASSAN as part of GIZ Project
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(MGNREGA-EB)”

This booklet is a handy reference for use by cutting edge MGNREGA functionaries. It is intended to help and support them to apply the knowledge/ tools/ instruments for the creation of technically sound assets and helps in following all the steps of the process/procedure in their proper sequence, with the recommended precautions.

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Foreword

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Convergence of MGNREGS with other Schemes in the Area

Several Line Departments are trying to develop rural areas through variety of programmes and schemes. Though the departments/ agencies put all possible efforts they are limited by programme guidelines, in case there are critical gaps in project activities to achieve the desired end results. Programmes, activities, funds and technical guidance might have available with other line department to bridge such gaps. Proper convergence helps to pool and bring to achieve “development” and make “positive change” together.

MGNREGS attracts more investments to come... It is a boon to the village... !!



.....How to make this happen is the subject of this Booklet...



Introduction

MGNREGS is a good opportunity for Natural Resources Management, Watershed Management, Agriculture Development and creation of Rural Infrastructure. Unlike several other programs that are only time-bound and operational in few areas, MGNREGS is a unique opportunity on following terms;

- ❑ It is operational in all the villages in the country
- ❑ It can take up any labour component related to building natural assets for the poor
- ❑ Its funding is related to the demand and availability of labour
- ❑ Decisions related to the program are supposed to be with Gram Sabha; and
- ❑ It can be integrated into many other programs

But, at the same time MGNREGS mainly focuses on unskilled labour employment with limitations on material component, wage days allotment and seasonality to works. It has very little facilitation costs and technical support in operation.

then...

How to increase effectiveness of investments from MGNREGS in terms of developing assets, asset based income for wage dependent families?

For this, MGNREGS necessarily has to work along with other programmes creatively;

First, let us see in what ways one can use MGNREGS with other government programs in rural areas. The convergence can be facilitated through following ways;

- ❑ **Gap filling (Budget/ Investment Convergence) for Value Addition**
- ❑ **'Purpose' or Objective based convergence: Forward linkages/ valued addition.**

1.1 Gap filling Convergence

The most common mode is to use MGNREGS for labour components and other programs like watershed development for material and other components. Scale of the programs can be increased if labor budgets are sourced from MGNREGS, subject to the norms.



Example

- In an earthen check dam with masonry spill way – the labor component of the dam can come from MGNREGS while the masonry (material) component can come from watershed development. Similarly, the earth work for water harvesting structures in a watershed can be taken up under MGNREGS while the masonry work like stop dams, spill ways can be taken up under other schemes.

✓ Do's

- It is better when the implementation agency (User Group/ Watershed Committee/ or a labour group) is the same
- Ensure that the budget is administratively approved before the program
- Keep the Measurement and Measurement Book separate

✗ Don't's

- If the fund flow is not synchronized it may result into a big problem – e.g., earthen dam completed but spillway incomplete, may be disastrous!

1.2 Forward linkages/ Value addition

The programs taken up under MGNREGS and other programs are implemented separately but in the same location (i.e. not into the same work).

Examples

- If there are many farm ponds dug in MGNREGS in one location, horticulture/ agriculture department may work on small vegetable cultivation with pumps made available under custom hiring services. This enables the MGNREGS investments on farm ponds converted into vegetables for consumption/ income for the small farmers.
- Tree Plantation for Sericulture: Initiating a program to plant trees that hosts silkworms in the same area where Central Silk Board has taken up a program to install cocoon processing facility. As processing is available, there will be more demand for cocoon production and backward integration of trees to host silkworms will help in enhancing total productivity.

2

'Purpose' or 'Objective' for Convergence

In this type, a program is conceived with specific objectives and a 'plan' is prepared to achieve the objective. Several works/ sub-programs may converge within the overall program to achieve the objective.

Examples

- ❑ If the objective is to establish protective irrigation to a chosen rainfed area to protect it from droughts – there can be multiple programs converged to achieve the objective according to a plan and design.
 - ❖ Water is pumped from a source into a pipeline grid laid to cover all the area with irrigation by sprinklers
 - ❖ Soil and moisture conservation is taken up to cover the entire area to increase harvesting runoff into soil profile
 - ❖ Organic matter is added to soil to improve moisture retention
 - ❖ Biomass plantations for soil organic matter and fodder are planted on bunds.
 - ❖ Farmers are well trained in appropriate crop patterns.

In such a program

- ❖ The pipe-lines and sprinklers may be sourced from Horticulture or 'on farm water management' component of NMSA.
- ❖ MGNREGS can be used for soil and moisture conservation, farm ponds, compost pits and biomass plantations.
- ❖ ATMA may support for farmers' training.

Here a plan is prepared for achieving an objective, discussed with relevant departments and the budgets pooled in the plan. The departments may still operate independently but according to a commonly agreed plan that results into achieving the set objective.

Do's and Don'ts

✓ Do's

- It is important to have a facilitating organization to coordinate with multiple agencies and for enabling the participatory planning exercises. The budgets may be pooled or not;
- Always create space for line departments and programs to take complete ownership of their own component follow up and see the end impact of their interventions through a collective efforts.

In all the above cases, the last mode of convergence i.e. purpose and plan based convergence is proving highly effective. The most important success factor in this case is the availability of an agency which can bring various actors from different departments together converging into the plan and yet maintaining their Department/ program's identity.

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Steps in implementation of Convergence

- ❑ Planning at GP level.
 - ❖ Activity Identification
 - ❖ Prioritization
 - ❖ Budget Estimation
 - ❖ Exploring schemes/ departments
 - ❖ Matching fund
 - ❖ Admin sanctions
- ❑ Work execution
 - ❖ Role clarity
 - ❖ Sequencing of works
 - ❖ Execution
 - ❖ Measurements
 - ❖ Recording
 - ❖ Payments
- ❑ Management, monitoring and reporting
 - ❖ Preparing activity / work execution calendar
 - ❖ Coordinating with the functionaries of different line departments/ schemes
 - ❖ Material management
 - ❖ Mandatory check measurement by respective departments / agencies
 - ❖ Community monitoring

For steps in implementation of Covergence, refer Para 8.5 of Samarthya Technical Training Manual where the steps are in detail

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Non negotiables in Convergence

The following non-negotiables shall be followed to converge with other programmes.

- ❖ The procedures (plan, estimate, administrative and technical sanction implementation, measurement to be followed in MGNREGS should not be compromised.
- ❖ Gram Sabha resolution on the MGNREGS component of the program is mandatory and the program will be included in the Shelf-of Works.
- ❖ Separate measurement and books of accounts will be maintained as per the state's MGNREGS requirement.
- ❖ The entire program will be subject to social audit.
- ❖ Identity of MGNREGS, measurability of work done and visibility of MGNREGS.



There are several circulars, guidelines issued on the subject of convergence; as these procedures vary from state to state, the local procedures must be followed while enabling convergence.

For Non-Negotiables in Coverage, refer Para 8.4 of Samarthya Technical Training Manual

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Potential NRM Programs and Schemes for Convergence with MGNREGA



1 National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)



2 Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)



3 Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)



4 Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)



5 National Afforestation Programme (NAP)/ Green India Mission



6 ICDS scheme of MoWCD



7 Action Plan for Roadside Tree Plantation under MGNREGA



8 Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) Previously this is known as National Horticulture Mission (NHM)



9 Schemes of Rubber Board/ Coconut Development Board/ Silk Board



10 Lac Development Scheme



11 Schemes for the promotion of Cashew Development

12 Central / State Finance Commission Grants