

RAINFED AREA DEVELOPMENT (RAD) COMPONENT UNDER NATIONAL MISSION FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (NMSA) 2017-18

Introduction: Rainfed areas constitute about three-fourth of the land mass under arid, semi-arid, and dry-humid zones. Rainfed agriculture is complex, diverse and risk-prone activity. Activities proposed under RAD will act as a catalyst to accomplish the ultimate objective of enhanced productivity, minimizing the risk of crop losses due to uncertainties of weather conditions, harnessing efficiency of resources, assuring food and livelihood / income security at farm level and strengthen the farmers' capacity to adapt to climatic changes.

Objectives

- Increasing agricultural productivity of rainfed areas in a sustainable manner by adopting appropriate farming system based approaches.
- To minimize the adverse impact of possible crop failure due to drought, flood or un-even rainfall distribution through diversified and composite farming systems.
- Restoration of confidence in rainfed agriculture by creating sustained employment opportunities through improved on-farm technologies and cultivation practices.
- Enhancement of farmers' income and livelihood support for reduction of poverty in rainfed areas.

Benefits of the programme:

This will act as a catalyst to accomplish the ultimate objective of enhanced productivity, minimizing the risk of crop losses due to uncertainties of weather conditions, harnessing efficiency of resources, assuring food and livelihood / income security at farm level and strengthen the farmers' capacity to adapt to climatic changes.

Brief guidelines for implementing RAD component under NMSA:

- RAD aims at **promoting integrated farming system(IFS)** with emphasis on multi-cropping, rotational cropping, inter-cropping, mixed-cropping practices with allied activities like horticulture, livestock, fishery, agro-forestry, apiculture etc. to enable farmers not only in maximizing the farm returns for sustaining livelihood, but also to mitigate the impacts of drought, flood or other extreme weather events.
- Depending on the type and extent of natural resources/assets/commodities already developed or supported, location-specific crops, fruits, vegetables, spices, flowers, feed & fodder, livestock, fisheries, apiculture, mushroom, medicinal & aromatic plantation and related income generating activities would be supported. Activities like construction of

ponds, land treatment, wells, supply of pumps etc. would be converged/ supplemented to promote **value addition through a sustainable farming system**;

- Adoption of a **cluster approach** in a village or an area of not less than 100 Ha (contiguous or non-contiguous in difficult terrain with close proximity, in a village/ adjoining villages) may be preferred for injecting investments to utilize the potential of available/created common resources.
- **Selected clusters will have soil analysis/soil health card as mandatory.**
- Farmers would have the option to choose one or combination of farming systems suitable to the specific eco-system supported through local KVK, SAU, ICAR Centre, ICRISAT, ATMA etc., for maximizing agricultural productivity from the existing natural resource assets.
- Support to each farm family under RAD component will be **restricted to a farm size of 2 Ha and financial assistance will be limited to Rs.1 lakh**. However, construction/ renovation of farm ponds, storage/processing unit and/or construction of poly house etc., are excluded from these limits.
- **Converging the upgraded utilities** developed through watershed development programmes/NREGA in terms of water harvesting and micro water storages through effective application and distribution systems like improved conveyance, field channels, pressurized irrigation, water lifting devices etc. to enhance the potential of farming systems.
- **Resource Conservation Technologies (RCT)** and rainwater harvesting have been kept under the basket of eligible activities of RAD to fulfill specific requirement of farmers/localities to supplement the works undertaken under National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA) and Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River valley Projects & Flood Prone Rivers (RVP&FPR) which have not been developed to their full potential due to limitation of resources and in some cases not completed due to discontinuation of funding.
- **RCT activities will not be taken up in any developed/ongoing/proposed IWMP watershed project areas unless specifically recommended by the State Level Nodal Agency of IWMP.**
- **Reclamation of problem soils (Acidic/alkaline/saline)** through appropriate soil amendments, land development including bio-drainage, on-farm water management including secondary storage as may be required in the cluster, may be proposed under RAD Component adopting the norms and specifications given under SHM /OFWM components.

AREA OF OPERATION:

Implementation of the identified IFS activities is proposed to be undertaken in the following areas:

- a) All the rainfed areas (i.e. areas which are not covered under assured means of irrigation)
- b) Areas where water resources have been developed under MNREGA Schemes or any other programmes/schemes
- c) Areas where some commodities are being promoted through NFSM,.
- d) New areas having potential for farming systems development.