

INFORMATION HANDBOOK UNDER SECTION 4 (B) OF RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT, 2009 WITH RESPECT TO AGRICULTURE PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT.

INTRODUCTION

The Jammu & Kashmir Right to Information Act, 2009 as passed by the Jammu and Kashmir State Legislature received the assent of the Governor on 20th March, 2009. The Act provides for setting out the regime of Right to Information for the people of the State to secure access to information under the control of Public Authorities, in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority, the constitution of a State Information Commission and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The objective of this handbook is to provide information to the intended users regarding different functions being delivered by the Agriculture Production Department.

Section 4 (b)

(i) Particulars of Organization, Functions and Duties

Department of Agriculture is engaged in multiple activities with the objective of increasing production and productivity of agriculture crops and to implement the various State and Centrally Sponsored Schemes in order to raise the socio economic status of farming community. The main functions of Agriculture Department are as under : -

- ✓ Generating awareness among farmers regarding new technology and inputs through training programmes, Charcha Mandals, Kissan melas, exhibitions and exposure visits, etc. assistance available under varies Schemes, advisories and services available.
- ✓ Production of Certified Seed from the Breeder (germplasm by University) and Foundation Seed at the Departmental Seed Multiplication Farms (SMFs) Seed Villages and further augmentation through procurement of deficit seed from the State Central Seed Corporations / leading Companies of repute for distribution amongst the farming community.

- ✓ Arrangement of different types of fertilizers from the different companies through GOI for making its availability to the farming community well before the onset of the sowing season.
- ✓ Providing of assistance for adoption of latest Technology and for purchase of Farm Machinery/Equipments, etc. under different Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) such as RKVY, ATMA, NFSM, MIDH, NMOOP, SMAM, etc. to the farming community.
- ✓ Production of specialized and need based tools and implements by Agriculture Engineering Workshop as per the location specific needs for sale to the farming community.
- ✓ To keep vigil and also educate farmers about various pests and diseases that may affect the crops and measures required for their control with focus on integrated pest management besides ensuring availability of quality plant protection chemicals to the farmers.
- ✓ Issuing of pesticide, Fertilizer, and Seed licenses to the farmers and unemployed youth to carry on the business of dealing with these inputs.
- ✓ Providing incentives to farmers under various schemes for augmenting irrigation resources.
- ✓ Promoting diversification in farming activity by including Bee Keeping, Mushroom Cultivation, cash crops, etc.
- ✓ Quality control including drawing of Seed, Fertilizer & Pesticide samples from the Retailer/ Wholesale / Manufacturing units to test their standards & launching of prosecution against the firms whose samples are declared substandard.
- ✓ Promoting soil health by drawing and testing of soil samples to recommend balanced dose of fertilizers to be used for various crops under Soil Health Card Scheme.
- ✓ Department of Agriculture has initiated pro-active measures to promote a high value crop such as

Mushkbudji, Saffron, vegetable cultivation, Meetha Rice (SR-1 & K448), Apiculture, Mushrooms & Maize which is specific to specific areas having potential for its commercial endurance for the benefit of the farmers. Similarly area specific cropping systems are being promoted to link it with National & International markets for sustainable agriculture growth. This is aimed to overcome to orthodoxy of the cropping systems which was haunting agriculture growth in Jammu & Kashmir State & modern scientific technical knowhow is being imparted to the farmers by using various means of demonstrations/ communications inclusive of frequent use of print & electronic media. Updated methods of sowing and its package of practices relevant to the crop are being propagated for transforming the agriculture sector in to a profitable and sustainable venture. Furthermore efforts are being made by the Department of Agriculture to link the agriculture produce with the National & International Market through e-farmer's portal for generating sense of business security.

- ✓ The mandate of Sericulture Development Department is to propagate mulberry plants and its distribution among farmers for transplantation in their land holdings, production and distribution, of Silkworm Seed, establishment of Incubation and Chawki rearing Centres, Supervision of Silkworm rearing at farmers level for production of silk cocoons, organizations of Cocoon Auction Markets for sale of cocoons and establishment of silk reeling units in private sector. The two sectors of sericulture viz. Pre-Cocoon Sector for cocoon production & marketing and Post Cocoon Sector for raw silk production & marketing offer good employment opportunities.

In terms of Rule-4(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir Government Business Rules, following subjects are assigned to the Agriculture Production Department:-

1	Administrative Control of Director Agriculture, Jammu	diragriammu.nic.in
2	Administrative Control of Director Agriculture, Kashmir	diragrikmr. nic.in
3	Administrative Control of Director Command Area Development, Jammu	cadjmu.nic.in

