

Approved Guideline for Empanelment of Facilitating Agencies/Service providers under PGS-INDIA programme by DAC&FW vide Letter no. 9-52/2020-Org-Fmg. Dated 19.11.2020 and NEC meeting held on 22.12.2020.

“Facilitating Agencies are organizations “that may be helping the PGS-India farmers in handholding, cluster formation, capacity building, marketing, implementation of PKVY/other organic farming schemes/programmes etc.”

Eligibility Criteria for Facilitating Agencies’/Service providers’ Empanelment:

1. Legally registered agency
2. Experience Requirement:
 - Essential: (Any two of the followings)**
 - (i) Minimum 03 years’ experience of Applicant Agency or its personals in– Organic Farming Management, Value addition, knowledge of Certification Systems, Marketing.
 - (ii) Minimum 01-year experience in FPO/FPC/Organic Cluster formation.
 - (iii) In house competence in Capacity Building of stake holders in various aspects of organic farming.
 - Desirable:**
 - (i) Experience in GIS and Remote Sensing.
3. Functional office situated in the area of operation.
4. Adequate infrastructure & digital support system.
5. Sufficient working personals with proven competence in earlier mentioned fields.
6. *Exclusion:* Any start up doing innovative work in Agriculture, with at least 01 year experience having bearing with organic farming promotion.

Roles and Responsibilities of Facilitating Agencies/Service providers *inter alia* may include-

- Deployment of man power as Lead Resource Persons (LRPs) for effective implementation of programme.
- Formation of Group /Cluster through mobilization of interested farmers.
- Collection of basic data of farmers (such as identity card, land details, bank account detail for DBT, farm history etc. as per requirement of PGS-India).
- Help in online registration of Local groups on PGS-India portal.
- Facilitate local group in Data Uploading and Management on PGS-India portal/State ICT network (like farmers’ detail, farm history, group summary sheet, peer appraisal etc.).
- Capacity building of Farmers/ Local Groups through *Trainings, group Meetings and Exposure Visits* on –
 - Organic farming activities
 - PGS-India Standards,
 - PGS Group Operations, Documentation, Peer appraisal, Certification decision
 - Institutional development/FPO/FPC making and their professional management.

- Assist the farmers in preparation of –
 - annual plan of action
 - packing, marketing, logo preparation etc.
 - suitable *on-farm strategies* for nutrient and pest management

- Circulation of PGS-India literature in local/regional language.
- Preparation and submission of periodic reports.
- Facilitating market linkage, Introducing local marketing initiatives to ensure that PGS-India certified produce finds market as premium produce in local and city markets.
- Helping States in *Brand building* activities and projecting States potential in national and International trade fairs within the country.
- Participation in meetings and Peer inspections with Local Groups, facilitating other Satke holders to take active participation in PGS-India system.
- Periodic monitoring of functioning of Local groups and time to time issuing of advisory to farmers.
- Facilitating the Local Groups/Farmers for –
 - Transportation arrangements for Marketing of organic produce.
 - Data entry and marketing transactions on jaivikkheti web portal.
 - Food processing and handling.
- Ensure access of portal data to public to build trust and credibility in the system.
- Preparation of geo referenced maps in case of contiguous area certification.