

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
PANCHAYATI RAJ AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT



Memo. No.14608/RD.II/A1/2005-1.

Dated:15-10-2005

Sub:- NFFWP - MOU between DWMA Ananthapur and CEC
Hyderabad for pilot facilitation of NFFWP - Regarding.

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The Center for Environment Concerns (CEC) Hyderabad and its partner Rural Education and Development Society (REDS, Kadiri) have been associated with the implementation of National Food for Work Programme in Kadiri and Amadagur Mandals of Ananthapur district.

2. The CEC and REDS have shared with the Government their experience of working with the District administration, local PR bodies in the two Mandals. As it is, the District administration has an informal arrangement of partnership with CEC and REDS in the implementation of NFFWP.

3. Based on the experiences obtaining from the present association, it is felt that a formal MOU between the DWMA Ananthapur and CEC would consolidate the partnership.

4. The services of CEC and its local partner REDS will be purely on voluntary basis without involving any payment. Further, the objective of the partnership is to bring in innovation in implementation of NFFWP in order to achieve its stated objectives of assured wage employment and internal food security. The association is also expected to be able to show the direction for Operationalization of the proposed rural employment guarantee programme.

5. A draft MOU prepared in this regard is attached herewith. The District Collector, Ananthapur is requested to arrange for the formal signing of the MOU between the DWMA and CEC.

6. In order to give effect to the MOU, all the concerned in the 10 selected villages of the two Mandals may be intimated about this and a request made for their cooperation for smooth implementation of the programme. The District Collector is also requested to hold periodic review meetings in order to learn from the partnership.

K. RAJU
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT (RD).

To
The District Collector, Ananthapur. (w.e.)

Copy to:-

The Commissioner of Rural Development, AP Hyderabad for follow up. (w.e.)
The Project Director, DWMA, Ananthapur for necessary action. (w.e.)
SF/SC.

// Forwarded by Order //

Pravin Kumar
SECTION OFFICER

**Draft Guidelines / MOU on DWMA Ananthapur – CEC – AP Govt.
Collaboration on National Food for Work Programme**

Eight districts in AP are implementing the National Food for Work Programme (NFFWP), which is seen as transitory to the proposed Employment Guarantee Act (EGA) is a major ameliorative and development thrust in backward rural areas. A partnership with Centre for Environment Concerns, a voluntary agency whose contribution to food, livelihoods and dryland area development is well known is envisaged by the District Administration, Ananthapur and RD Department of AP Govt.

This collaboration would enhance to understand and develop a set of practices, innovative directions and human capacities to enable EGA in meeting its objectives. The partners hope to learn and build in procedures and processes for wider adoption by the state govt. in implementing EGA. It is also seen as an opportunity for grass roots stakeholders to exercise and influence the content, direction and monitoring of the programme.

Under this collaboration, CEC will work in ten selected villages in the district. It will begin from 1st November, 2005 onwards in ten villages of Kadiri & Amadugur Mandals in Ananthapur District. The villages will be identified by CEC in consultation with the local authorities. The MOU is for a period of one year and may be extended by the District administration, if found necessary.

The DWMA Ananthapur and the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh will ensure:

Issue of clear guidelines/rules/circulars on implementation of NFFWP to the district/mandal/village officials promptly. These, as far as possible, should be provided in Telugu so the message will reach the villages.

Undertake to provide one hundred days of employment in a year for one person per wage seeking household at minimum wages of Rs.100/- per person per day. This will consist of 10 Kg of rice (Valued @ Rs.8 per Kg) and Rs.20/- in Cash. The grain will be provided each month to the

households at the local PDS shop. It is thus the responsibility of the Govt. to ensure the grain reaching the PDS shop along with the regular PDS rice.

The mandal and village officials will participate in the Gram Sabha's in identifying the wage-seeking households, works, in estimating the works and in reviewing the progress. At these Gram Sabhas, the wage-seeking households will come up with a list of works to be taken up in the village along with the period when it would be undertaken, rough estimate of time and workforce needed and details of all the tasks to be done in the case of each work. All works will be placed before the Gram Sabha and approval will be taken.

The selection of the works is left to the choice of the wage-seeking households with the approval of the Gram Sabha. The works must create infrastructure or regenerate local natural resources or improve the quality of life for the people.

Most works to be taken up must be able to complete using manual labour. However, if some works involve some purchases or external inputs, the district authorities will provide cash as provided in the NFFWP guidelines under material component. It will be the responsibility of the district authorities to ensure that the money is made available well in time to the Gram Panchayat and ear marked for this purpose.

The Panchayat engineer or any authorized person must come to the village within five days of submission of the work proposed to be taken up along with peoples' estimate for it and the engineer will come to the particular work spot and give the mark out, explain what extent of work is expected and complete authorization of the work cost estimate.

The person (Para Worker) chosen by the wage-seeking households will maintain a muster roll record, minutes of all meetings of the Gram Panchayat, visiting officials, grains and cash received and distributed.

At each of the works, the Paraworker will assist the wage seeking households in undertaking the tasks. Women may be given preference as Paraworkers. The Paraworker will be provided remuneration as an extra wage seeker. The other personnel drafted for implementation of NFFWP (Para Engineer and other line Dept. Staff etc.) may attend to their tasks in coordination with CEC / REDS.

Task of CEC / REDS:

CEC Hyderabad will work through its partner NGO REDS, Kadiri.

CEC agrees to undertake this task on a voluntary basis and not receive any remuneration for undertaking the assistance in implementing the NFFWP. CEC will meet the extension, training, coordination and administrative expenses from its own resources.

CEC will initiate steps to create awareness about the NFFWP among the village communities. It will attempt to develop confidence in the programme among the villagers. Towards this, CEC take up sensitizing the village communities about the concept of NFFWP and as a part of it attempt to bring on board PRI/Local communities.

CEC will provide adequate staff whose responsibility will be to assist the community in effectively implementing and benefiting from the programme, undertake conflict resolution, coordinate with local Panchayat and govt. officials and provide monthly progress report to the govt. and the district collector.

CEC will provide training and capacity building of the community and local officials in implementing the programme and optimizing the development and livelihoods opportunities in the area through EGA and other inputs.

CEC will avail the services of a retired engineer or a trained barefoot cadre for preparing the estimates and undertaking check measurement to be subsequently verified by the authorized representative of the state govt.

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CEC will assist the local administration in supervising implementation of identified works and as a part of it will see that necessary documents like muster rolls and measurement book (MB) are maintained properly.

Ensure implementation of works and measurement of works by the appropriate authority in time, so that grain and cash delivery to the beneficiaries is not delayed.

CEC will try to use technology such as biometric devices or bar codes for transparency and accountability needed when the programme is extended all over the state through the official machinery.

Coordination and Review:

There will be monthly review of the progress by the District Collector and CEC along with planning the activities for the next month. Once the system is established it is expected that meetings would be called by the govt. only when sought by CEC or review is called for by the District Collector.

A local team involving Panchayat representatives, those availing the EGA, Mandal officers and the NGO will meet every month to facilitate the smooth and timely implementation of the programme.

The AP Govt. would bring in, based on this field experience the needed framework for smooth and effective implementation of the programme. CEC will provide bi-monthly progress and experience sharing with officials of the department of rural development of the govt. of AP.

Dispute Resolution Mechanism:

In case of any dispute arising out of execution of this MOU, the matter should be referred to the Pri. Secretary, Dept. of Rural Development, Govt. of AP. His decision in this regard shall be final.

Withdrawal Provision:

The CEC and the District Administration, Ananthapur can withdraw from the obligations under the MOU by mutual consent.