

# Mukhya Mantri Ek Bigha Yojna (MM1BS) under MGNREGS

Rural Development Department, HP

# Background

Every major crisis, such as the Corona virus (COVID-19) pandemic, brings opportunities to rethink our systems and make them more resilient to future shocks. This is also true for rural regions. Rural economies have provided essential goods and services - including food and energy - to households, hospitals and health centres during confinement periods. During the COVID-19 outbreak, food security became a concern as people fell short of cash, food intake went down and there were not enough jobs in rural area of the state. In such a situation to boost the rural economy, which has faced a setback due to the corona virus pandemic, Government of Himachal Pradesh has directed the Department of Rural Development, Himachal Pradesh to frame scheme under “Economic stimulus package to rural people in Himachal” to support the rural economy post COVID-19 pandemic. So department has framed a scheme “ **Mukhya Mantra Ek Bhigha Yojana**” in convergence with Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Act and DAY-National Rural Livelihood Mission to provide the employment and food security to the rural population in the State.

## Objective

- The main objective of the MM1BS is to provide food security by the development of backyard kitchen garden in the HHs to produce nutritional, healthy vegetable & fruits. Mukhya Mantri Ek Bigha Yojana has been started with the objective of making 1.5 lakh rural women self-reliant and providing them employment. Under Mukhya Mantri1 Bigha Yojana 2020, It has been decided to provide benefit to 5000 Self Help Groups (SHG) with 80% rural households in the first phase. Through self-help groups, women will be able to employ themselves and improve their living and economic condition by working on their own fields and by developing backyard kitchen garden or orchard.

# Strategies Adopted

- “Mukhya Mantri Ek Bhigha Yojana” was launched by Hon’ble Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh in the month of May 2020, MM1BS has implemented as convergence scheme between NRLM & MGNERGA. Any woman of a registered SHG with NRLM can avail the benefit of this scheme up to **₹ 1 lakh** if she holds MGNERGA Job Card.
- The main objective of the MM1BS is to provide food security by the development of backyard kitchen garden in the HHs to produce nutritional, healthy vegetable & fruits.
- MM1BS also promote the livelihood opportunities for self-help group women in rural areas of the state by selling farm produced in the open market
- Benefits provided under MM1BS:
  - Land Development
  - Nursery development
  - Fruit tree plantation
  - Vermi compost & Azola pit Construction
  - Irrigation & water Harvesting structure construction
  - Animal shed

# Innovative Method Used

- Mukhya Mantri Ek Bigha Yojana (MM1BS) is an ambitious Scheme that envisages strengthening rural economy by linking Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and the Self-Help Groups formed under National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) in which a woman SHG member or her family who owns land up to one bigha (or 0.4 hectares) can raise a backyard kitchen garden by growing vegetables and fruits. As MM1BS is providing food security to the rural people but also providing the sustainable livelihood opportunity at the same time.
- While framing the scheme “MM1BS” it has been decided that it will be implemented in convergence and the exiting funds allocated under the schemes may be utilized for its implementation. The members of women SHG members formed under NRLM has selected as the beneficiaries and the benefits have been provided under MGNREGA scheme. The total maximum cost of the scheme is fixed at ₹ 1 lakh per beneficiary. The said amount will be managed under MNREGA and it will be spent in the ratio of 60:40 as prescribed (60% wage component and 40% material component) and seeds will be purchased from material component itself.
- Following is the list of works sanctioned under MGNREGA under Mukhya Mantri 1 Bigha scheme:
  - Land Reform Item Number: 62 (I) / 60 (B)
  - Plant Building Item Number: 176 (B)
  - Fruit Planting Item Number: 127
  - Digging and Fertilization for Earthworm Composting Item Number: 86 (D) / 83 (D)
  - 4. Digging and Firming for Azola Item Number: 244 (B)
  - Ch. Work related to construction of cows
  - G. Water harvesting work
  - H. Construction work related to Naihar in village or Kuhal.

# Period of Project Implementation

- The scheme has started in May, 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic to boost the rural economy, which has faced a setback due to the pandemic. It has been decided to provide benefits to 5000 households in the first phase, but due to the popularity of the scheme and the benefits provided under it more than 2000 applications have been received up to Dec.2020. Keeping in view of demand the department has decided to continue the scheme and to cover maximum rural population. As of Dec. 2020 more than 9700 households have been provided benefits under MM1BS.
- Positive Outcomes
- Corona epidemic infections have had the opposite effect on the employment of many people. Keeping this problem in mind, all rural women belonging to about 23,000 plus self-help groups organized in Himachal Pradesh under the Rural Development Department are proposed to be provided opportunities for sustainable livelihood and overall development under Mukhya Mantri Ek Bhigha Yojana (MM1BS).

## **Following outcomes have been achieved under MM1BS:**

- Rural people have availed the benefits of land development and other benefits under MGNRGA.
- After land development rural women are generating double income by growing cash crops like vegetables.
- MM1BS has created an employment opportunity during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Food security has also been achieved.
- Sustainable development for rural livelihood.
- A step toward social & economic change has been taken in the rural areas.
- The initiative has also secured the community from malnutrition through development of nutrition kitchen garden.
  - *Keeping in view of the successful results of MM1BS in Himachal Pradesh, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India has appreciated this innovative step and advised the other State Governments to adopt such schemes in their states also for the welfare of community during this pandemic.*

## **Role/ nature of involvement of the nominee in the project**

- Himachal Pradesh State Rural Livelihood Mission (HPSRLM) has act as the project implementation agency for the smooth and effective implementation of the MukyamantriEkhighaYojana in the state. Activities like framing of scheme, selection of beneficiaries, scrutiny of works, funds management, database management and monitoring of implementation has been done at the level of HPSRLM. The regular follow up by the HPSRLM results in successful implementation of the scheme “MM1BS”

## **Sustainability**

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- development needs inclusive development which includes social and environmental
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- Mukhya Mantri Ek Bhigha Yojana (MM1BS) is a demand driven scheme for sustainable development of social, environmental and economic development of rural households. As the scheme is implemented in convergence with centrally sponsored schemes MGNREGA & DAY-NRLM, which are the flagship schemes of Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India.