

‘Setting up Kitchen Gardens in convergence with other schemes/ departments

Summary:

The Nutritious Kitchen Garden can be set up across schools with the help of seed fund provided by MHRD, technical understanding from Department of Horticulture and convergence with other schemes such as MGNREGA for implementation purpose.

Objectives and Rationale:

The central ministry is encouraging states and Union Territories to become self-reliant as well as implement climate resilient practice such as developing kitchen gardens to grow fresh vegetables for the mid-day meal scheme. State like Kerala, Chandigarh, Punjab and Haryana hosted recommendations for setting up of kitchen gardens. State of Nagaland also shared the working details of its pilot, that is setting up of school kitchen gardens with Department of Horticulture. The kitchen garden may supply most of the non-staples' food products like vegetables, legumes, roots, tubers, fruits etc.

Key Stakeholders:

The key stakeholders involved are MHRD, schools, Department of Horticulture and Ministry of Rural Development.

Implementation Strategy:

The central provides seed funds in the form of INR 5000 to schools. The school with the help of this funds, access technical capability of Department of Horticulture and design a Kitchen Garden. The seeds, and manual for growing the same, all technical advice is provided by Department of Horticulture. The school together with the help of Department of Horticulture access help from MGNREGA and create a kitchen garden. The state of Nagaland during primary survey has indicated using similar implementation strategy for developing school kitchen garden and is now planning to replicate it across all government schools.

Resource Utilization:

The resources used across various convergent schemes are: (a) MHRD provides INR 5000 as monetary support per school for establishing Kitchen Garden (b) technical support can be accessed from Department of Horticulture for setting up Kitchen Garden in schools (c) Payment to workers for developing Kitchen Gardens under MGNREGA scheme.

Impact:

The impact of the initiative of setting up Kitchen Gardens in schools is that they have evolved into Nutrition Kitchen Garden that will help in addressing issues of malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. Additionally, the concept of Kitchen Gardens will pose as experimental learning for students. The establishing of Kitchen Garden is also helping other convergent schemes such as MGNREGA in terms of providing employment to locals and Department of Horticulture in terms of mainstreaming need of their mandate and agenda that is promotion of climate resilient green practice.

Replicability and Sustainability:

The concept has been used across various states and Union Territories. The states are now using convergent support from schemes like MGNREGA and Department of Horticulture for additional funds and technical support to establish and maintain the same.