

Steps for operationalisation of National Food Security Act — 2013 in Assam

The Govt of Assam has issued WT msg no FSA 81/2009/514 Dated 1-8-2013 for initiating the process of selection of beneficiaries in pursuance of the provisions of the National Food Security Ordinance 2013.

The steps for operationalization of the provisions for the selection of beneficiaries as approved by the Group of Ministers are as follows -

- (1) The percentage of population to be covered in the State will be 84.17 % for rural areas and 60.35% for urban areas, as per Govt of India directives
- (2) For the rural areas ,the Gaon Panchayat will be the unit for selection of beneficiaries, and Census population of 2011 of that particular Gaon Panchayat would be the basis for selection of beneficiaries under the NFSO. In urban areas, the unit will be the Municipal Corporation , Municipalities and Town committees, in consistence with the definition of local bodies in the Ordinance.
- (3) The number of households reflected in the Census records and electoral roll of that particular Panchayat Election would be considered for identifying the beneficiary of the village. For the Councils at Karbi Anglong ,Dima Hasao and BTAD Kokrajhar , the last electoral rolls of the Council elections would be considered.
- (4) The entire selection of beneficiaries would be done on Antodaya approach ie the poorest of the poor would be having the first right to be selected.
- (5) The AAY,BPL and MMASY FIC lists along with the electoral roll of the General Elections / Panchayat Elections at Gaon Panchayat level would be hung and displayed along with the relevant records of the FP shops in Gaon Panchayat office , DC/SDO office, BDO office , Revenue Circle office. In the urban areas the display would be done at the Municipal Corporation office , Municipal Board and Town Committees. In Council areas (Karbi Anglong , Dima hasao and BTAD Kokrajhar) the display will be in VCDC etc offices as appropriate.
- (6) The Secretary of the Gaon Panchayat and the designated officer in rural areas will be the nodal officer for display of the lists. Similarly the officer designated by Councils (Karbi Anglong , Dima hasao and BTAD Kokrajhar) will function in the Council areas.
- (7) The Secretary of the Gaon Panchayat and designated officer of the DC/SDO/ Council will issue forms for inclusion of beneficiaries and also receive claims and objections in regard to existing AAY, BPL,MMASY and new beneficiary lists. In urban areas, the executive officer of the Municipal Corporation / Board / Town committee would receive claims and objections within the stipulated time as mentioned hereunder. For Autonomous Councils(Karbi Anglong , Dima Hasao and BTAD Kokrajhar), the Principal Secretary of each Council will take all steps for effective identification of the beneficiary population within their jurisdiction. The dead and absentee FIC holders of all categories will have to be deleted.
- (8) The application form may be received in plain paper also, but the same should be in the prescribed format(Proforma-C) notified by the Govt of Assam for data

digitization. Those who have already submitted the same for data digitization / issue of new FIC, need not apply afresh.

- (9) Authorized officers , one for every 10 gaon panchayats , will be notified by the Deputy Commissioners / SDOs / Councils who will oversee the smooth conduct of the beneficiary identification process in the Gaon Sabhas . Autonomous Councils will take similar appropriate action.
- (10) There will be a verification committee comprising of the Secretary of the Gaon Panchayat , Designated officer of the DC/SDO/Council and the local area Inspector / Sub inspector of F,CS &CA . They will guide the claimants and objectors in filling up the forms, and providing the supporting documents . They will scrutinize the forms and applications in comparison with the aforesaid lists (AAY, BPL,MMASY , electoral rolls etc) , sort them out Gaon panchayatwise , register the same and place it before the Scrutiny Committee headed by the BDO in the rural areas and the Revenue Circle officer in the urban areas. In case of shortage of any supporting document/s , the two officers at the GP level will give adequate opportunity to the applicants for submission of the same.
- (11) The verification committee will also ensure that the total eligible persons/ households do not exceed the census population of the village / ward.
- (12) The total AAY individual beneficiaries covered by AAY FI cards would be deducted from the total eligible Census population of the village / urban area to derive the persons who would be additionally included in the priority households to fulfill the required percentage of 84.17 % in rural areas and 60.35 % in the urban areas.
- (13) The income criteria for selection of beneficiaries would be less than Rs 1 lakh per annum.
- (14) The suggestive list of inclusion in urban and rural areas would be
 - a. The inclusion list would preferably be old/ infirm , landless agricultural labourers , marginal farmers, rural artisans , craftsmen, potters , tappers , weavers , blacksmiths , carpenters , masons, tea and ex tea garden labourers , all casual workers , drivers, conductors , handymen porters , tailors , washer men, barbers , cobblers, sweepers, electricians , domestic servants , hawkers , vendors , delivery men , rickshaw pullers , handcart pullers, fruit , vegetable , fish and flower vendors selling on pavements, erosion affected families , patients suffering from cancer and HIV patients irrespective of his income provided that their total family income is less than Rs 1 lakh per annum The above criteria are indicative and not exhaustive.
 - b. The exclusion list would preferably be MPs, MLAs, ex MPs, ex MLAs, Govt servants and retired Govt servants drawing pension more than Rs 1 lakh per annum , those owning motorized vehicles, land holders other than small and marginal categories , businessmen / entrepreneurs , doctors , engineers , architects , Chartered Accountants, Bank officials, lawyers , Govt contractors and suppliers , real estate builders ,industrialists , trade licence holders who pay income tax , University teachers , College , Higher secondary , junior college , high school, Upper LP and LP school (provincialised) teachers

, shopkeepers, traders who pay income tax , all persons whose family income is more than Rs 1 lakh per annum. The above criteria are indicative and not exhaustive.

- c. For verification, references may be taken from the Treasury office for Govt servants and retired Govt pensioners drawing pensions , Sales tax Deptt , Income Tax Deptt, Transport Department , Municipal Corporation, Boards and Town Committees , Central Excise and Customs, Excise Deptt, PWD and other Engineering Depts .
- d. The Scrutiny committee for selection of beneficiaries in rural areas will be done by a Block level committee comprising of the BDO of the concerned Block as Chairman, 4 other members consisting of 1 local Inspector / Sub-Inspector of F,CS &CA , 2 PRI members and 1 social worker . One of the last three members should be a woman. The Committee will be duly notified by the DC/ SDO/ Principal Secretary of Council concerned.
- e. The Scrutiny committee for selection of beneficiaries in urban areas will be done by a Committee comprising of the Revenue Circle officer concerned as the Chairman, and 4 other members , consisting of 1 local F,CS and CA Inspector/ Sub Inspector , 2 ward commissioners / members and 1 social worker. One of the last 3 members should be a woman. This committee would be duly notified by the DC/SDO/ Principal Secretary of Council concerned.
- f. In case, some areas of council fall within the jurisdiction of Revenue Circle of non Council areas , then two members of the respective PRIs/VCDC and one social worker, of which one should be a woman , will be members of the Scrutiny committee for the purpose of such Council areas only along with the Revenue Circle officer of the concerned Circle as Chairman. The local F,CS &CA area inspector / Sub-inspector will be member of the selection/ scrutiny committee.
- g. The time schedule for the selection procedure may be as follows -
 - 1. 5-8-2013 to 16-8-2013 - Receipt of applications in prescribed format from the applicants. Those who have already submitted in the prescribed format need not apply.
 - 2. 17-08-2013- Display of list of existing card holders along with the application form of FI cards and the relevant records of FP shops (AAY,BPL,MMASY, Tea and ex tea garden labourers who have applied including new applicants) in GPs, Town Committees , Municipalities/ Corporations / Councils /DC office/ SDO civil office / CO (Rev) office /BDO office for claims and objections
 - 3. 18-08-2013 to 25-08-2013 - Receipt of claims and objections by Gaon Panchayat Secretaries and designated officers in GP offices / Chairman or any officer designated by DC/SDO/Council in town , municipality and Corporation areas who will present the list alongwith all connected documents to the concerned Scrutiny Committees. For Council areas, the Principal Secretary of respective

Councils will make similar arrangements for receipt of claims and objections.

4. 26-08-2013 to 25-09-2013- Hearing of claims and objections by the Scrutiny Committee and prepare the lists of beneficiaries and place before the Gaon Sabha.
5. 26-09-2013 to 02-10-2013- Holding of Gaon Sabhas in this respect
6. 3-10-2013 to 2-11-2013 - Approval of lists by DC/SDO/ Principal Secretary of the District / Subdivision / Councils .
7. 19-11-2013 - Probable ceremonial launch of the Food Security Ordinance

(15) DC/SDO/Principal Secretary of Autonomous Councils (Diphu, Hailong, BTAD Kokrajhar) will prepare their area-wise action plan and the fund implications for effective implementation of the provisions of the ordinance.

(16) DC/ SDO/Principal Secretary of Council will assess the requirement of foodgrains Gaon panchayat- wise after finalization of the beneficiaries.

(17) The village wise population figures published in the Census 2011 , have been uploaded in the website / portal online.assam.gov.in/web/fcs . It should be ensured that the total beneficiaries do not exceed the village figures published in the Census 2011.

(18) Printing of FI cards will be done at the State level in pursuance of the provisions of the ordinance.

(19) In case of any inconsistency in the interpretation of the above instructions, the provisions of the National Food Security Ordinance shall prevail.

Sd/-
(S.Mewara IAS)
Principal Secretary
Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs

Memo No.81/2009/535

Dtd.8th August, 2013

Copy to:

1. The Deputy Commissioner, Barpeta/Bongaigaon/Cachar/Silchar/Dhubri/ Goalpara/Hailakandi/Jorhat/Kamrup(M)/Karimganj/Nagaon/Nalbari/ Tinsukia/Golaghat/Morigaon/Lakhimpur/Sonitpur/Kamrup(R)/ Darrang/ Dibrugarh/Chirang/KarbiAnglong/Sivasagar/Kokrajhar/ Udalguri/Dhemaji/ N.C.Hills/Baska for information & necessary action.
2. The Principal Secretary, Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council, Diphu/ NC Hills Autonomous Council, Hailong/Boroland Territorial Council, Kokrajhar for information & necessary action.
3. PS to the Hon'ble Minister, Revenue & D.M.etc, Assam for kind appraisal for the Hon'ble Minister.
4. PS to the PS to the Hon'ble Minister, FCS & CA, Assam for kind appraisal for the Hon'ble Minister.
5. PS to the Hon'ble Minister, Forest, P&RD etc, Assam for kind appraisal for the Hon'ble Minister.

6. PS to the Hon'ble Minister, Agriculture, Assam for kind appraisal for the Hon'ble Minister.
7. PS to the Hon'ble Minister, P&D etc, Assam for kind appraisal for the Hon'ble Minister.
8. PS to the Hon'ble Minister of State (Ind.Charge), Cooperation, Assam for kind appraisal for the Hon'ble Minister.
9. PS to the Addl. Chief Secretary, Finance Department for kind appraisal for the Addl. Secretary.
10. P.S. to the Commissioner & Secretary, Govt of Assam, Finance Deptt. for kind appraisal of the Commissioner & Secretary.
11. P.S. to the Commissioner & Secretary, Govt of Assam, Social Welfare Deptt. for kind appraisal of the Commissioner & Secretary.
12. P.S. to the Principal Secretary, Govt of Assam, Health & F.W. Deptt. for kind appraisal of the Principal Secretary.
13. P.S. to the Commissioner & Secretary, Govt of Assam, Public Health Engineering Deptt. for kind appraisal of the Commissioner & Secretary.
14. P.S. to the Principal Secretary, Govt of Assam, FCS & CA Deptt. for kind appraisal of the Commissioner & Secretary.
15. The Director, FCS & CA, Assam, Bhangagarh, Guwahati-5 for information & necessary action.
16. The Deputy Director, FCS & CA, Kamrup (M), Guwahati for information & necessary action.

By order etc.,

Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Assam,
FCS & CA Department, Dispur