

BY SPEED POST

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Government of India  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Department of Agriculture & Cooperation  
Crops Division  
NFSM CELL  
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Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.  
Dated: the 27<sup>th</sup> July 2010

To

The Mission Director,  
National Food Security Mission,  
Department of Agriculture,  
Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh,  
Gujarat, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala,  
Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjan, Rajasthan,  
Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

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**Subject:** Inclusion of Zero Till Multi Crop Planter, Ridge Furrow Planters and Laser Land Levelers (under custom hiring by farmers' group) under NFSM - Rice / Wheat / Pulses - Regarding.

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Sir,

This is regarding inclusion of Zero Till Multi Crop Planter, Ridge Furrow Planters and Laser Land Levelers under NFSM - Rice / Wheat / Pulses.

You are aware that Zero Till Seed Drills help in growing different crops simultaneously in unprepared pre-harvested fields that saves time. The planting disc of the Zero Till Multi Crop Planter can be easily changed for different crops without dismantling the seed hoppers main shaft. Due to these properties, missing of grains and grains damage is almost negligible. Fertilizers can be used simultaneously according to requirement.

Similarly, Ridge Furrow Planter will be useful for preparing ridges and furrows in the field where in ridges serve as a rain fall harvesting zone and furrows as a planting zone. This would be helpful in increasing water availability to crops for improving and stabilizing agricultural production in the semi arid zones.

Both, Zero Till Seed Drills and Ridge Furrow Planters are similar to Multi Crop Planters which is already included under NFSM. In order to equip the farmers, with implements of similar nature, it has been decided to include Zero Till Multi Crop Planters and Ridge Furrow Planters under NFSM with an assistance @ 50% of the cost or Rs. 15,000/- per machine, whichever is less.

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As regards Laser Land Levelers, it is a machine meant for leveling the field within certain degree of desired slope using a guided laser beam through out the field. Unevenness of the soil surface has a significant impact on the germination, stand and yield of crops. A tractor driven laser guided land leveling equipment reduces time required for leveling the field, reduces the use of power, requirement of irrigation water by 30% and the even surface enables equal distribution of fertilizers and pesticides resulting in improved crop fields. Accordingly, it has been decided to include laser land leveler under custom hiring by farmers' groups with assistance @ 50% of the cost of the equipment or Rs.1.5 lakhs, whichever is less for a group of farmers / self-help groups registered under ATMA Scheme with at least 10 farmers as its members. These groups can use the equipments on custom hiring basis.

You are, therefore, requested to send the physical targets and outlays separately for NFSM – Rice / Wheat / Pulses (as the case may be) for the above new machines, if needed, so that necessary sanction could be issued by GOI.

Yours faithfully,

  
(A. Neeraja)  
Director (Crops)

Copy for information to:

1. The Secretary (Agriculture) of all 17 NFSM States.
2. P.S. to JS (Crops)
3. P.S. to Director (Crops)
4. All National Consultants.
5. AC (NFSM) / ADs (NFSM) / US (CA V) / SO (NFSM)
6. All States' files of NFSM – Rice / Wheat / Pulses.