



OPELIP

ODISHA PVTG EMPOWERMENT & LIVELIHOODS
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME
ST & SC Development Department
Govt. of Odisha



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Letter No. 2813 / Date: 17.8.2022

From

**Mr. P Arthanari, IFS
Programme Director, OPELIP**

To

Special Officer/FNGO Chief Executive (17 MPAs)

Sub: Revised Guidelines on Farmers Field School FY 2022-23

Sir,

With reference to the subject cited above, the guidelines for "Farmers Field School" is revised for FY 2022-23. The JAO MPA and AO FNGO should do the farmers field school. The JAO and AO may be given advances to conduct the same. Each should do 50 % of the target. This supersedes the previous instruction given in the CB guideline that FFS is the responsibility of MPA.

It is instructed that JAO and AO should prepare PPT for each of the FFS taking in to the GPS photographs and maintain transparency within the whole training period. Transparency board need to be erected for each FFS and also case records need to be maintained.

The case record should contain:

1. GPS photo of 3 operation
2. Money receipts of Resource Persons engaged
3. Bills of critical inputs duly signed by JAO, AO and lead farmer
4. Bills of Field Day organization duly signed by JAO, AO and lead farmer
5. Photo of Display board
6. Traction slip/ proof of transfer of Rs. 1000 incentives to farmer
7. Signature of farmers attending the FFS in three operations duly signed by JAO, AO and lead farmer

Yours faithfully,

Enclosure: Revised FFS Guideline


17/8/22
Programme Director

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[Year]

Revised Guidelines on Execution of Farmers Field School

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Revised Guidelines on Execution of Farmers Field School

1.0. Introduction

1.1 What are Farmer Field Schools?

- Farmer Field Schools (FFS) consist of groups of farmers who get together to study a particular topic.
- The topics covered can vary from conservation agriculture, organic agriculture, animal husbandry, and soil husbandry etc.
- FFS provide opportunities for learning by doing. It teaches basic agricultural and management skills that make farmers experts in their own farms.
- FFS is a forum where farmers and trainers debate observations, experiences and present new information from outside the community.

1.2 -Why FFS?

- Empowering farmers with knowledge and skills
- Making farmers experts in their own fields.
- Sharpening the farmers' ability to make critical and informed decisions.
- Sensitizing farmers in new ways of thinking and problem solving
- Helping farmers learn how to organize themselves and their communities.

2.0 Essential elements of FFS:

- The group of people (15-20 in number) who have a common interest forms the core of a Farmer Field School. The FFS tends to strengthen existing groups or may lead to the formation of new groups
- The Field is the teacher. It provides most of the training materials like plants, pests and other facilities. In most cases, communities provide a study site with a shaded area for follow-up discussions.
- The Facilitator is technically competent to lead members through the hands-on exercises. The facilitator can be an extension agent or a Farmer Field School graduate.

- The curriculum follows the natural cycle of the subject, be it crop, animal or soil. This allows all aspects of the subject to be covered in parallel with what is happening in the FFS field

3.0 Methodology:

- Farmers Field School will be organized by MPA and FNGO. MPA (JAO) will do 50 % and FNGO(AO) will do 50 %.
- A demonstration plot of half acre will be selected along with a control plot.
- The farmers of the group will be trained on technology seed to seed throughout the cropping period.
- Each FFS will be anchored by one community service provider (CSP) who will be the lead farmer to introduce improved farming technologies and seed varieties.
- In each operation from seeding/nursery raising, intercultural and harvesting/post-harvest theoretical as well as practical orientations are given to the farmers.
- The duration of class for each event day will be 2 to 4 hours. One expert from KVK/local Agriculture dept and the MPA & NGO Agriculture expert will facilitate the same.
- The VAWs and CSP-Agriculture/Horticulture of same GP will coordinate the same.
- The demonstration plot already planned in the village will be utilized for FFS purpose.
- The cost for the same should be under the demonstration head. Where the clusters are promoted in the MPAs, the FFS can also be organized there.
- Besides to promote pisciculture and other agriculture/horticulture new/advanced techniques can also be taken under FFS.
- Case records/reports for each farmer's field school also be maintained and learning from the same should be recorded. It should contain photographs of each session on field.

4.0 Cost Norm:

- The unit cost is Rs10,000.00 per FFS which will be spent on Formation/organization and capacity building. **However beneficiary contribution is 20 %.**
- In each operation from seeding, intercultural and harvesting theoretical as well as practical orientations are given to the farmers.
- There will also be provisioning of Rs. 25.00(20 no x Rs 50.00= Rs. 500.00) for training materials/ study materials/books. The material of training should be shared with the PMU before giving it to the farmers. It should be good booklet/leaflet in ODIA.

- A lump sum provision of RS. 500.00 for publicity/display boards/Flex etc. will also be there. A tin/all-weather board/Flex having min. dimension 2feetx2 feet should be erected in the field throughout the FFS period starting from sowing to harvest.
- Rs. 1500.00 for critical inputs for sprayers/equipment and one-time cash incentives to the lead farmer @ Rs. 500.00.
- A field day will also be organized after completion of min. 3 sessions of school involving the local farmers/User group etc.
- Resource person fees for KVK experts/Experts from line dept. will be given @Rs. 500 per day. The resource person cost will be Rs. 1500.00 maximum. (Rs. 500.00x 3 event days). FFS should be organized with the presence of outside expert.
- **The MPA & NGO Agril. Experts needs to keep all GPS photo and submit it in PPT mode and accordingly case records need to be developed with signatures of each farmers attending. The bills of critical inputs need to be kept in case records.**

Sl. No	Name of Activity	Unit Cost (Rs)	Quantity (No)	Total (Rs.)	Remarks
1.	Study Materials	25.00	20	500.00	One time
2.	Resource person Fees	500.00/session	3 sessions	1500.00	Three sessions
3.	incentives to lead Farmer	1000.00	1	1000.00	One time
4.	Display board (Tin/steel) /Flex 2feetx2 feet	500.00	1	500.00	One time
5.	Critical input like Sprayer/ other equipment to the lead farmer.	2500.00	1	2500.00	One time
6.	Organizing Field Day after completion	2000.00	1	2000.00	Refreshments/Tent/etc.
7.	Arranging Farmers, Labour for Seeding, intercultural operation, harvesting etc.	2000	1	2000.00	Farmers Contribution
TOTAL				Rs.10,000.00 (Rs. Ten Thousand Only)	

Steps in conducting FFS

Ground working activities

- Identify priority problems
- Identify solutions to identified problems
- Establish farmers' practices
- Identify field school participants
- Identify field school sites

Training of facilitators on:

Crop/livestock production and protection technologies; message delivery mechanisms using non-formal education methods (NFE); participatory technology development (PTD) with emphasis on the approaches
non-formal education methods with emphasis on what, when and how to use NFE in FFS; Group dynamics; special topics to be addressed at every stage of training.

Graduations

This marks the end of the season-long FFS. It is organized by the farmers, facilitators and the coordinating office. Farmers are awarded certificates.

Field Days

During the period of running the FFS, 1-2 field days are organized where the rest of the farming community is invited to share what the group has learned in the FFS. Farmers themselves facilitate during this day

Establishment and running FFS

With the guidance of facilitators, the group meets regularly throughout the season and

- Identify PTDs
- Carries out experiments and field trials related to the selected enterprise
- Implement PTDs (Test and validate)
- Group dynamics

Farmer run FFS

FFS farmer graduates now have the knowledge and confidence to run their own FFS.

Follow up by facilitators
The core facilitators backstop on-going farmer run FFS