

Project: Agriculture Information System Network (AGRISNET)

Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) have taken steps to establish "Agricultural Information System Network (AGRISNET)" in collaboration with NIC. The Proposal recommends (i) the state-of-the-art IT infrastructure requirements to establish AGRISNET as the INTRANET over NICNET, (ii) development of databases and information systems for decision support for evaluation, monitoring and policy formulations, and (iii) human resources development, (iv) multi-media based training and demonstration of transfer of technology to strengthen Farm Research and Education using broadcast VSATs, (v) special interest groups in respect of subjects, problems, programmes, schemes, etc, and above all, to make Indian Agriculture on-line for INTERNET and INTRANET access through AGRISNET Nodes. AGRISNET Nodes are envisaged to be established at

- DAC Hqrs (Krishi Bhawan),
- DAC Attached Offices and its regional offices,
- DAC Subordinate Offices and its regional units,
- DAC Public Sector Undertakings (NSC&SFCI) and sub-units,
- DAC Autonomous Organizations,
- Apex Cooperative Organizations
- State Agriculture Departments
- NCT/UT Agriculture Departments
- District Agriculture Offices [520+], and
- Block Agriculture offices [5000+]

"Network-centric" applications using Data warehousing techniques, Expert Systems & Knowledge Bases, GIS Technology, RS Technology, and Internet/Intranet Web Technology, will be made available in AGRISNET Nodes.

Implementation Strategy:

2.1 The AGRISNET Project will be implemented in a projectised mode, i.e., funds under AGRISNET will be provided to the State/ UT governments on the basis of specific project proposals submitted by them.

2.2 The project proposals for funding under AGRISNET will clearly specify the following:

- a) Services and services goals
- b) Outputs and deliverables
- c) Road map and Timelines, including intermediate milestones
- d) Positioning of Empowered Committees
- e) Positioning of Mission leader

- f) Implementation arrangements and Positioning of Implementation team
- g) Arrangements for monitoring and evaluation, including independent evaluation, of the project.
- h) Success criteria for assessing project impact
- i) Total funds required for the project
- j) Funds to be provided by the State government, if any
- k) Funds requested from the DAC
- l) In-kind contribution to be made by the State government
- m) Elaborate mechanism for regular data updation on real time basis
- n) Full details, and fully incorporate the ICT infrastructure available in the State.

2.3 The State Governments shall determine the output and deliverables for each project in terms of G2C services. Provision of G2G services should be treated as an intermediate output.

2.4 The State Governments shall propose a road map indicating delivery of G2C services and these should also be explicitly stated in the agreements with the State Governments.

2.5 The State Governments should indicate as to how they intend to deliver the services to the farmers. The delivery points should be identified and indicated in the proposals.

2.6 The improvement of services to the farming community through the use of ICT, and not the services per se, would be considered for funding under AGRISNET.

2.7 The items / activities eligible for funding under AGRISNET will include:

- a) Hardware and system software
- b) Application software
- c) Data entry
- d) Networking
- e) Training of stakeholders (officials of State Agriculture Department, State Cooperative Department, district agricultural officers and extension workers)
- f) Other specific activities.
- g) Essential miscellaneous costs (not to exceed 10% of the total project cost)

2.8 Data Centre capabilities will be considered at the state levels. The total number of data centres below the state level shall not exceed the total number of districts in the state.

2.9 The hardware and software should be so designed that, if needed, it can be extended up to the block level.

2.10 The State government shall provide physical site for the project and bear the initial and recurring cost for the physical (civil) infrastructure such as premises, site preparation, furniture, etc. The State government shall also provide manpower and utilities for implementing the project.

2.11 The states shall commit to maintaining the infrastructure created under the project with their own funds after the initial warranty period is over. Any upgradation of the infrastructure will have to be done by the State government at its own cost.

2.12 The state government will commit to integrate other national / state level agriculture portals / applications with AGRISNET project.

2.13 The project proposal shall also indicate State's participation in terms of sharing of costs and any other commitments proposed to be made by the State government.

2.14 The proposal will make a clear commitment that no project fund will be utilized for creation of posts or towards meeting salary / wages of staff.

2.15 The agency implementing the projects shall follow the procedures for procurement of hardware / software applicable to it, which in respect of Government Departments will mean following the GFRs.

Present Status:

Department of Agriculture has to submit a proposal covering all the above conditions to Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC). The government of India has sanctioned amount of Rs. 5 Lacs for preparing proposal. The work order to prepare a proposal is given to Centre for Computational Engineering (CCE) of Punjab Engineering College.

Representatives of CCE is in process of preparing the proposal.

After the completion of proposal, it has to be approved/vetted by Department of Information Technology of the state before submitting it to DAC.