



JEEViKA

An Initiative of Government of Bihar for Poverty Alleviation

Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society
State Rural Livelihoods Mission, Bihar



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OFFICE ORDER : Livelihoods Flexi Fund

JEEViKA has a long experience of implementing various livelihood interventions across Agriculture, Livestock, Non-farm and Skill development sectors. These interventions include productivity enhancement interventions in Agriculture like the System of Rice Intensification, System of Wheat Intensification, Zero tillage, Seed replacement etc. In addition, value chain interventions in Agriculture that have enabled SHG members access to markets in commodities like Maize, Potato, vegetables and others. In the livestock sector, backyard poultry interventions, the goatary intervention that enabled access to a range of animal management services, dairy intervention enabled access to backward linkages and markets have been piloted. Non-farm interventions like bee keeping, did Raso, improving access to markets for agarbatti making, specific arts and crafts have also been piloted.

Almost all these interventions have been designed and piloted initially at the state level and subsequently, policy guidelines were formulated and based on these guidelines, interventions have been scaled up by district and block teams.

However, there is a huge need to pilot and scale up many more livelihood interventions in each of the above sectors and these pilots need to be customized to the different livelihood contexts that exist across the state. It is therefore critical that "flexibility" is provided to district and block teams to try out different ideas (both old and new) on the ground and learn from these pilots to come up different livelihood options that could be provided for SHG members. It is with this background that a "livelihood flexi fund" is being introduced at the district and block level.

Objective:

The objective of the Livelihood flexi fund is to encourage and enable district and block teams to pilot specific livelihood interventions across agriculture, livestock, non-farm and skills development intervention.

Projects for livelihoods strengthening:

A strong need has been felt to complement the capacities of the poor to enhance their income through improved livelihoods activities with information, knowledge, skills, finance and collectivization. Special focus needs to be given to plugging the critical gaps in livelihoods planning and investments of the rural poor for stabilizing and promoting as well as diversifying the existing livelihoods portfolios of the poor/women producers in farm, non-farm and off-farm activities.

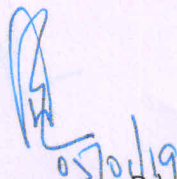
The flexi fund could be used for training, capacity building, provision of specific equipment, provision of revolving fund and working capital for a group of SHG members either at the SHG level, VO level, CLF level or to a producer group (group of SHG members around a specific activity). The investments stated above can be provided as a grant to the group. However, as per the principles of program over the last 10 years, no grants will be provided at the household level

Principle functions of Livelihoods Flexi Fund

- Each district is expected to come up with their customized business process for appraisal and approvals of proposals in their respective districts.
- Apart from approved AAP and Budget, in the FY 2018-19, the DPMs are authorize to approve the innovative proposal upto an amount of cumulative of Rs. 15 lakhs at the district level in a particular financial year. Beyond the limit, DPMs will submit the proposal to SPMU and with the recommendation from thematic head, the same will be approved by the CEO, BRLPS.
- Some part of the flexi fund may be utilized in training but maximum part should be planned in activities that may promote livelihoods activities.
- The budget under this head will be transferred in the beginning of the financial year from the state and based on the expenditure ratio, the next financial year fund will be disbursed from state unit.
- This will be booked under Component 4 of BTDP under the innovations and pilots sub component and In the case of NRLM, they will be booked under the innovation and partnerships support component.
- Districts have the flexibility to come up with any specific guidelines/ principles for their respective districts through a committee formed at district/block level respectively in order to promote innovativeness to aid the process of livelihoods promotion. Committee being headed by DPM will approve the concept and nominate nodal person for facilitation in its roll out.
- DPCUs need to make sure that **the procurement policies and approved unit costs** that apply across the JEEViKA program are being followed.
- Each DPCU/BPIU needs to ensure that **no grants will be provided at the Household level. Grants can be given to community institutions only.**
- The MIS will be developed and the district team has to follow the triggers mentioned in the Application before disbursing the fund. However for the FY (2018-19), expenditures can be made based on above mentioned stipulations only. The condition of MIS will not be applicable for FY 2018-19.
- The performance of the district in utilization of the flexi fund will also be duly recognized in the performance assessment of the DPM. Any effort taken for innovativeness with result will be duly recognized for DPMs and other related persons rolling it out.
- Both DPMs and BPMs are directed to ensure that funds are utilized for the benefit of the community members and institutions following the above mentioned stipulations.
- Based on the learning, the guideline will be improved further.

Reporting

- A 2 page report on the progress and use of the flexi fund needs to be submitted to the state team along with the MPPR every month by DPCUs.


(Balamurugan D.)

Chief Executive Officer-Cum- State Mission Director
Bihar Rural Livelihoods Promotion Society

Copy To:

1. DPMs/In-charge DPMs
2. Director/OSD/CFO/AO/PS/
3. All PCs/SPMs/SFMs/PMs/ PO/AFMs
4. IT Section & Concerned File

Annexure 1:

Suggested template to accessing flexi fund for Livelihoods Promotion

1. Background & Context
2. Geography Selection
 - a. Location of proposed model. Rationale for selecting that area of operation.
3. Rationale for intervention
4. Objectives and Key Deliverables
5. Target Group
6. Intervention detail
 - a. Activities mapping
 - b. Risks
 - c. Implementation arrangement
 - d. Output expected
7. Convergence Plan, if any
8. Overall Budget required
9. Support required from district and State