

Government of West Bengal
Panchayats & Rural Development Department
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From: Saurabh Kumar Das
Principal Secretary

To: Aparajita Sarangi
Joint Secretary
Ministry of Rural Development
Government of India

Sub: State Convergence action plan, 2014-15 and the road map: Convergence between MGNREGS and other programmes

Madam,

Kindly find the enclosed State Convergence Action Plan, 2014-15 and the road map of Convergence between MGNREGS and other programmes. The action plan as developed has the approval of the Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal. The Department accepts that there was inordinate delay in submission of the convergence action plan. However, this was due to delayed submission / non submission of respective plan from some of the major Departments. Even in the present form, the State Convergence Action Plan leaves scope for improvement with inclusion of plans from different other sectors / Departments. We view this as a evolving process and are in constant touch with the counterpart Departments. Action plans when received from such Departments will be added to the State Convergence Action Plan for implementation in the field. The plan may kindly be considered and approved.

Yours faithfully,



(Saurabh Kumar Das)

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005

Roadmap for Convergence between Mahatma Gandhi NREGA and other programs and the Convergence Action Plan 2014-15

West Bengal

**Panchayats & Rural Development
Department**

Government of West Bengal

June 2014

Roadmap for Convergence between Mahatma Gandhi NREGA and other programs and the State Convergence Action Plan 2014-15: West Bengal

1. Introduction

2014-15 financial year has been declared by the Government of India as the year of convergence in MGNREGA. The experience of implementing Mahatma Gandhi NREGA across the country over the last seven years indicate that the quantum of investment in the program do not always match with the quantum of assets generated. Even when assets have been generated, its contribution towards generating livelihood potential for the rural poor has often been limited. Livelihood generation is something, which cannot happen in isolation. There are different programs of the Ministry of Rural Development and programs of different other Ministries which have specific bearing on promotion of livelihood. Most of the programs for livelihood promotion implemented by the Ministries / Departments of Agriculture, Environment & Forest, Irrigation & Waterways, Water Resources Development, Textiles, Commerce & Industries, Drinking Water and Sanitation etc., have substantial labour component for which the job seekers engaged under MGNREGA may be utilized. Thus there exists enormous scope of convergence between MGNREGA and other programs.

It is in this backdrop the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India requested all the States and Union Territories to organize a State level Workshop on convergence, develop strategies for achieving convergence and prepare a roadmap on this. The present roadmap is a result of the initiative taken by the Government of West Bengal to ensure effective convergence between Mahatma Gandhi NREGA and other programs. Developing a Convergence Action Plan requires intensive interaction with the stakeholder departments and despite repeated interactions most of the departments find it difficult to come out of the conventional mode of working as one of the Program Implementing Agencies availing funding support under MGNREGS for running certain mutually relevant activities. While this compulsion of the converging departments cannot be downplayed, convergence in its true sense of the term requires pooling of resources, sharing of technical expertise, developing common understanding and action plan. Although, there are larger departments with whom MGNREGA shares resources in the

field, the present convergence action plan is only on the basis of concrete action plan submitted by the departments indicating the fund-sharing pattern as well. As we treat the present document more as a road map and only a partial plan, we expect to progressively develop the Convergence Action Plan as more and more the Departments come forward with their plans for convergence with MGNREGA.

2. Basic tenets of convergence

There are different types of convergence that could be achieved by effective integration of activities under MGNREGA and other programs.

- I. The programs may utilize the wage-seekers registered under MGNREGA.
- II. Technical expertise may be provided by Line Departments in works implemented by the Panchayats as PIA in MGNREGA
- III. The Line Department themselves may be entrusted with implementation of MGNREGS in areas of their strength where they may also act as PIA.

In all three types of convergence, the MGNREGA authority expects pooling of resources. We are open to separate accounting and even separate agencies for implementation of the MGNREGA and the departmental components of the convergence action plan. But the indications must be concrete as to the nature of resource sharing between the programs.

3. Positioning Convergence in different stages of program implementation

Convergence may happen at the pre-implementation stage where MGNREGS may utilize the assets already developed by other programs and generate additional supplementary assets. As for example, the roads constructed under PMGSY may be taken up for maintenance under MGNREGS. MGNREGS may also develop the road flanks with social forestry intervention; water-harvesting structures may be constructed through MGNREGS under the culverts constructed by the PMGSY/ RIDF and other road construction programs. Extension of a network of roads connecting the PMGSY nodes with the agricultural fields and interior villages in the form of a 'farm road network' (Farm net) is another example pre-implementation convergence.

Convergence may also be in works where both the programs run simultaneously with pooled resources. Convergence with rural housing, Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan etc. is example of concurrent convergence.

Convergence may also happen at some posts NREGA stage as well. As an example, the orchard created under MGNREGA may be supported by the Horticulture Department with drip irrigation facilities and other infrastructural facilities.

4. State Convergence Workshop

Government of West Bengal, in the convergence workshop presided over by the Chief Secretary decided that in 2014-15 and thereafter not less than 20 per cent of financial resources in MGNREGS would be utilized for implementation of works taken up in convergence with other programs. It was also expected that the other programs converging with MGNREGS would bring with them corresponding financial resources. Focus of convergence would be on development of productive assets capable of enhancing livelihood. Substantial portion of the works would be implemented at the household level to generate direct household assets for the wage seekers in the identified categories (ST/ SC/ BPL households/ women-headed households/ household-headed by disabled persons/ de-notified tribes/ nomadic tribes and the beneficiaries of IAY and land reforms).

5. Identification of a Nodal Officer

In the Panchayats and Rural Development Department Shri Dibyendu Sarkar, Commissioner, MGNREGA shall be the Nodal Officer. Each of the converging Departments will identify one such Nodal Officer and such officer will be in constant touch with the nodal Department and the Districts for effective implementation of initiative taken in convergence.

6. The Departments to converge with MGNREGA

The following Departments of the Government of West Bengal have been identified for convergence with MGNREGS.

- I. Department of Agriculture

- II. Department of Forest
- III. Department of Food Processing Industries and Horticulture
- IV. Department of Irrigation & Waterways
- V. Department of Water Investigation and Development
- VI. Department of Animal Resources Development
- VII. Department of Sports
- VIII. Department of Fisheries
- IX. Department of Food & Supplies
- X. Department of Commerce and Industries
- XI. Department of Sundarban Affairs
- XII. Department of Paschimanchal Unnayan Affairs
- XIII. North Bengal Development Department
- XIV. Department of Disaster Management
- XV. Child Development Department
- XVI. Department of Women Development and Social Welfare
- XVII. Public Health Engineering Department

7. Convergence with different programs implemented by the Panchayats & Rural Development Department

In West Bengal, Panchayats & Rural Development Department itself implements several flagship programs of the Ministry of Rural Development and several other programs of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. The following programs have scope of convergence with MGNREGS.

- 1. Ajeevika (Anandadhara in West Bengal)
- 2. Nirmal Bharat Aviyan (NBA)
- 3. PMGSY
- 4. IAY
- 5. BRGF
- 6. Comprehensive Area Develop Program
- 7. National Social Assistance Program.

In addition to these, grants received by the Panchayats as per recommendations of the Finance Commissions, grants received by identified Gram Panchayats under World Bank aided Institutional Strengthening of Gram Panchayats Project (ISGPP) and own source revenue of the Panchayats may also be utilized in convergence with MGNREGS.

8. Department-wise scope of convergence

In the convergence workshop we identified the set of basic activities where different Departments of the State Government and also different programs of the Panchayats & Rural Development Department may converge with MGNREGS. The participating Departments also deliberated upon the scope of convergence from their end. Accordingly, the following are the Department-wise list of activities where we will target convergence in 2014-15 and thereafter.

A) Department of Agriculture

- In identified watershed areas Agricultural Department will prepare their intervention plan in synchronization with MGNREGS. In the watershed areas labour intensive work on land owned by the families eligible for individual support under MGNREGS will be taken up with NREGA support. On common property resources within watershed areas for development of soil, moisture, green-cover and water resources, MGNREGS fund will be utilized.
- Agricultural Department will also support the Gram Panchayats with their technical expertise in development of compost pits, vermin composting facilities, azolla cultivation etc.,
- There are Department own agricultural farms where Agricultural Department will utilize the resources of MGNREGS both in terms of wage seekers and fund for development of production related facilities. However, mgnregs resources cannot be used for farming. Only productive infrastructure/ assets shall be developed through support under MGNREGS. Water bodies may be excavated and re-excavated, land development activities may be undertaken for seed farm development, nurseries may be set up within the Agricultural Farms with MGNREGA support.

B) Department of Forest

Forest Department may take up MGNREGA activities in both core forest area and forest fringe areas. Activities with NREGA support may also be taken up in social forestry divisions. Following are the major activities to be undertaken by the forest authorities

- Digging of trenches
- Development of water bodies
- Development of nurseries
- Plantation of saplings
- Vegetative fences
- Watershed based development activities in forest areas

It has been indicated that in 2014-15 the Forest Department will be able to utilize around Rs.200 crore out of NREGA for undertaking the activities listed above. There would be corresponding funding from the Departmental budget as well. (However, no concrete proposal has come from the department as yet).

C) Department of Irrigation & Waterways

Irrigation Department will take up activities for embankment strengthening and also implementation of some of the larger irrigation projects, especially re-excavation of earthen dams. Vetiver plantation on irrigation embankment will be taken up as a priority activity. The Department will finalise its budget in synchronization with MGNREGS. Although the action plan is yet to be formulated by the department, present indication is that they will absorb around Rs.100 crore out of MGNREGS with corresponding funding support from the Departmental budget.

D) Department of Water Investigation & Development

It has been proposed that this Department will implement 'Jal Dharo Jal Bharo' program in which around one lakh farm ponds will be excavated/re-excavated. Minor irrigation channels will also be excavated/re-excavated with NREGA support. Financial requirement from MGNREGS for implementation of such activities will be somewhere around Rs.200 crore. No concrete plan showing the framework of resource sharing, however, has as yet been shared.

E) Department of FPI & Horticulture

The Department of FPI and Horticulture will have major convergence with MGNREGS for development of orchards, green houses, poly-houses, raising of nurseries, development of irrigation sources for the orchards, gardens and nurseries. Under the convergence program, while MGNREGA will provide support for labour intensive work, the participating Department shall provide materials. Moreover, in the orchards already developed and to be developed during the year they will provide micro irrigation facilities in the form of drip/sprinkler irrigation arrangements. There will be special initiatives in the Darjeeling Hills where the Directorate of Cinchona and Other Medicinal Plants will converge with MGNREGS for large-scale development of medicinal plants and orange orchards in the area falling under the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration. The comprehensive project will be prepared by the Directorate and with the approval of their Department will be shared with us for implementation.

F) Animal Resources Development Department

Target group households identified through the process of habitation based planning will be provided with infrastructure for poultry shed, goat shelter, Cattle shade, pucca floor for cattle shed, urine tank, fodder trough etc.

Development of productive infrastructure in the ARD farms in the state will be another set of activities, which will be implemented on priority basis.

G) Fisheries Department

Fisheries Department will provide technical guidelines in excavation of farm ponds so that the ponds excavated under MGNREGS can be effectively utilized. There are a number of public tanks, especially those maintained by the Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDA) where MGNREGA support will be utilized for farm mechanization as well. The Department will prepare and share with us a detailed set of proposal for a tentative amount of Rs.100 crore out of MGNREGS with corresponding budgetary allocations from the Department. (Fisheries have recently shared their convergence action plan!)

H) Department of Sports

Sports Department proposed development of five football grounds per Gram Panchayat (size 45x30 meters) and one larger ground in every block (size 100x70 meters). Model estimates for this has been shared with the Department and fund-wise the total expenditure for the activities will be to the tune of Rs.80 crore. The Departmental convergence will come in the form of development of the block level playground into stadia under RG.

I) Food & Supplies Department

The Department of Food & Supplies will identify the sites for construction of storage structures for agricultural produce. The small go-downs will be constructed at the level of the villages with Self-Help Groups given charge of maintenance of the facilities. This will also be supplemented by development of thrashing grounds for winnowing of food grains, especially rice.

J) Commerce & Industries and MS&E Departments

Convergence in rubber plantation, labour intensive work in Government owned tea gardens would be the major areas of convergence with the industries Department.

K) Women Development & Social Welfare and Child Development Departments

Construction of Anganwadi Centres, development of playgrounds of Government owned anganwadi centres, development of small orchards on land of anganwadi centres, wherever available, will be the main areas of convergence. It has also been decided that MGNREGA will make provision for 100 days employment to all the families having one or the other members as victims of trafficking.

L) Public Health Engineering Department

Convergence with the PHED will be mainly in solid and liquid waste management. Soak pits and recharge pits for collection of water will be developed, platforms will be constructed for tube wells. Solid and liquid waste management facilities on a larger scale will also be developed in convergence with the Department.

M) Sundarban Affairs, Paschimanchal Unnayan and North Bengal Development Departments

Resources from these three Departments associated with local area development will be dovetailed with MGNREGS for creation of durable assets.

N) Tourism Department

Eco Tourism Parks and facilities for agro-tourism will be developed in convergence with the Tourism Department.

9. Convergence with programs of the Department of P&RD:

The scope of convergence with different programs of this Department is immense and will be explored during 2014-15 and thereafter. Following are the major programs where convergence will be aimed at:

- I. NRLM (Ajeevika / Anandadhara): In West Bengal, there is a very strong network of Self Help Groups developed under SGSY and gradually coming into the NRLM fold. In most of the Panchayats, the Groups are federated in to sub-clusters/ clusters and federations. Support from the SHGs is already taken in planning, monitoring and supervision of MGNREGA activities in the field. Supervisors are mostly engaged from the SHGs. Since 2013-14, the SHG clusters are also utilized for preparation of Labour Budgets and Annual Action Plans. This will be further strengthened through effective engagement of the SHG clusters and their women members in the process of consultation at the habitation level, which will then be formalized through interactions at the Gram Sansads. In the newly introduced Gram Rozgar Diwas to be organized on every first Wednesday of the Bengali month, SHG clusters at the Gram Sansad level will be utilized. There will also be attempts to organize women Sansads with active facilitation of the SHGs prior to the statutorily mandated Gram Sansad meetings. The experiments conducted in Bankura and parts of Purulia and Paschim Medinipur in providing lease-hold-titles to identified SHGs on land taken from private land owners and development of orchards and other facilities on such land will be replicated on a larger scale. Threshing of food-grains, development of storage facilities, common infrastructures for marketing of SHG products, common work-sheds for the SHGs

will be some of the priority activities. In 18 identified blocks of seven districts, the MGNREGA-NRLM linkage and the CFT strategy will be experimented which will thereafter be up-scaled in other areas. There is effective consideration for identifying some of the SHG clusters of the Gram Panchayats as PIAs for implementation of women-centric works under MGNREGA.

- II. Nirman Bharat Axiyan (NBA): Convergence with the NBA is another area of priority for the State Government. In the current year itself, around three lakh IHHLs have been constructed out of which one lakh has been constructed in the district of Nadia only. In 2014-15, the Department proposes to construct fifteen lakh IHHLs where MGNREGS will contribute Rs. 5400.00 whereas incentive money from NBA and contributions of the households will be Rs. 4600.00 and Rs. 900.00 respectively.

Although the convergence guidelines has made provision for utilization of MGNREGS fund for construction of School Toilet Blocks, it has been decided to utilize the NBA fund for this purpose. Construction of toilets for the ICDS centres is another area where the Department proposes convergence between the two programs. NBA as yet allows only Rs. 8000.00 for construction of an Anganwadi toilet. We have developed a model scheme for this with an estimated cost of Rs. 25000/= per toilet block. The Department proposes to contribute fund from MGNREGS beyond Rs. 8000/= as earmarked under NBA. However, this is subject to approval of the revised cost structure from the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation.

Household-based management of solid and liquid wastes is another area where MGNREGA will contribute towards the NBA objective of attaining Nirmal Gram status for the Gram Panchayats. Construction of compost-pits, soak-pits, in-house drainage facilities will be some of the activities taken up in convergence with NBA.

- III. Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) and other housing schemes: Families receiving support under IAY or any other corresponding housing support program will receive additional funding from MGNREGS to the extent of involvement of unskilled workers in construction of such houses. Raising of the base of the houses in

areas suffering from waterlogging during the monsoon will also be attempted out of MGNREGS. The State Government also implements an initiative known as Nijo Griho Nijo Bhumi Prokolpo in which the Land & Land Reforms Department provides lands in clusters to landless and homeless households. MGNREGS will converge with the program through land development, development of water sources and horticulture on such land clusters.

- IV. CADP (Comprehensive Area Development Program): The Department has several farms managed by the Comprehensive Area Development Corporation (CADC). MGNREGS converges with the CADP for development of nurseries, horticulture, poultry sheds in the farms of the CADC. This will be further strengthened in the next financial year.
- V. Backward Regions Gran Fund (BRGF) program: Convergence will be attempted with the BRGF where MGNREGS will provide fund and wage-seekers for labour oriented activities where additional material cost will be met from the fund received under BRGF.
- VI. Finance Commission Grants: The same principle will be followed for convergence between MGNREGS and the plans received under the directions from the Central and State Finance Commissions.
- VII. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY): The authority implementing PMGSY in the Department will share with the State MGNREGA Cell a list of identified roads in the core network where PMGSY interventions will be taken up after two years. Earthwork on such roads will be undertaken under MGNREGS following PMGSY specifications. Afforestation on the PMGSY road flanks has already been undertaken and will be strengthened. Water harvesting structures will be constructed under identified culverts on PMGSY roads. Farm road networks connecting PMGSY roads with the farm land and interior villages has already been initiated. This will be further strengthened by obtaining GIS coordinates of all such possible connectivity which will then be taken up under MGNREGS in a more systematic manner.
- VIII. Institutional strengthening of the Gram Panchayats (ISGPP) project: With World Bank support, the State Government is implementing the program in 1000 Gram

Panchayats. This is likely to be extended to the remaining Gram Panchayats of the State. Resources under ISGPP will be dovetailed with MGNREGs for wider coverage.

- IX. Own source of Revenue (OSR): Fund raised by the Gram Panchayats will also be ploughed into MGNREGS for meeting additional material cost for some of the works under MGNREGS.
- X. National Social assistance Program (NSAP): Concerted efforts will be made to ensure guaranteed hundred days' employment to all the recipients of widow pensions.

10. The process of convergence:

Wherever the participating Departments will act as PIA, the specific authority at the district and sub-district level will be listed by the Department and shared with us for obtaining Digital Signature Certificates for such functionaries. The Programme Officers and the Gram Panchayats will ensure tagging of wage-seekers with identified PIAs. For Forest Department, efforts will be made to identify a captive group of wage-seekers who are also associated with the Forest Protection Committees (FPCs). All the works identified by the line Departments will be placed for consideration in the meetings of respective Gram Sansads and only on obtaining priority from the Gram Sansads, the same will be collated at the level of the Gram Panchayat / Panchayat Samity and Zilla Parishad for according administrative approval and financial sanction by the Program Coordinator. While wage payment will be made directly from the SEGF, corresponding fund for procurement of materials and administrative expenses will flow directly into the specific accounts of the PIA whenever a scheme involving material procurement will be taken up for implementation. Most of such PIAs have opened their NREGA bank accounts. All additional PIAs will also open their NREGA bank accounts. So far as administrative expenses are concerned, 2% of the work-expenditure will be specifically earmarked for expenditure at the level of the PIA. This may be utilized for procuring minimum support infrastructure, engaging data entry operators, transport and vehicle hiring charges, IEC among the wage-seekers, certain capacity building interventions and other contingent expenditure. Reports will be directly uploaded by the PIA on NREGASoft. However, e-muster rolls shall be generated by the Program Officers only.

All papers pertaining to implementation of specific works will have to be shared with the respective Gram Panchayats for documentation and social audit. Any grievances against the activities of the officers and staff of the participating Department will be addressed at the level of the DPC. In specific cases, the State Government in the Nodal Department should be consulted.

11. Convergence Action Plan developed as yet

Convergence in Mahatma Gandhi NREGA is an ongoing process. The major thrust of convergence on pooling resources from the programs converging is something that is taking time to sink in into the mindset of the converging Departments. As a result even when there is convergence at the field level, ownership of the convergence approach at the state level is taking time. After the Convergence Workshop under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary we sent a series of communications to the Departments. However, till date we could receive concrete proposals maintaining the basic principles of convergence from the following Departments / programs:

- Department of Food Processing Industries and Horticulture (partly from the Directorate of Cinchona & Other Medicinal Plants)
- Department of Fisheries
- Department of Sports
- Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan
- Indira Awaas Yojana/ Rural Housing
- Comprehensive Area Development Program

Proposals from a number of other Departments are expected to come. Since we need to finalise the State Convergence Plan within a timeline, we have decided to complete our initial plan with the proposals received from the Departments/ programs mentioned above. For the remaining Departments/ programs we propose to continue with the persuasion and add on as we receive proposals.

I. Department of Food Processing Industries & Horticulture

This Department has got major potential for convergence with MGNREGA. However, while the complete convergence plan for the Department is in the process of preparation, we are including the proposal as received from the Directorate of

Cinchona & Other Medicinal Plants (DCOMP) of the Department, which caters to the areas in the Darjeeling Hills presently governed by the Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA). Following table indicates the proposed works and the quantum of convergence between MGNREGA and the Department of Food Processing Industries & Horticulture (Directorate of Cinchona and Other Medicinal Plants)

Sl.	Name of Scheme	Proposed area/ unit	Unit cost (Rs.)		Total Cost (Rs.)		
			MGREGS Contribution	Deptt. Contribution	MGREGS Contribution	Deptt. Contribution	Total funding
1	Cultivation of Mandarin Orange	28 acres	92,330	44,300	25,85,240	12,40,400	38,25,640
2	Production of Disease free planting materials of different fruits and spices	20 acres	7,68,255	3,50,740	1,53,65,100	70,14,800	2,23,77,900
3	Cultivation of Large Cardamom	100 acres	85,500	84,168	85,50,000	84,16,800	1,69,66,800
4	Construction of Poly House for cultivation of various fruits and vegetables	175 Polyhouse	99,150	59,425	1,73,51,250	1,03,99,375	2,77,50,625
5	Cultivation of Medicinal Plants (Ipecac)	45 acres	2,34,620	3,01,040	1,05,57,900	1,35,46,800	2,41,04,700
6	Cultivation of Medicinal Plants (Chirata)	20 acre	42,081	24,800	8,41,620	4,96,000	13,37,620
Total amount					5,52,51,110	4,11,14,175	9,63,65,285

II. Department of Fisheries

The Directorate of Fisheries under the Department of Fisheries, Government of West Bengal prepared proposals for convergence in

- Excavation of Fish Ponds and Fish Farming in 200 hectares
- Fingerlings production through pen / cage culture in 100 hectares of 'Beel' areas (all in Departmental land)
- Development of Fish Drying Yards in costal areas

- Construction of Jhora Ponds in hill areas (50 units)
- Providing aerators in 10 Fish Farms owned by the Government
- Construction of Landing Ghats in 20 'Beel' / 'Baors'

Following is the financial estimates for all the 6 types of works taken together, including contributions from the Department and from MGNREGS: (Rs. in lakh)

Sl.	Name of work	Total area / unit	MGNREGS share	Departmental share	Total
1.	Fish production including excavation of fish pond	200 Hectares	934.4	30.00	964.4 lakh
2.	Pen / cage culture including construction of Pen / cage in government owned water bodies	100 water bodies X 10 Hectares	Rs. 207.20 lakh	Rs. 69.00 lakh	Rs. 278.20 lakh
3.	Fish drying yards in coastal areas	10X 30 units	Rs. 89.62 lakh	Nil	Rs. 89.62 lakh
4.	Construction of Jhora Ponds in Hill areas	50	Rs. 64.40 lakh	Rs. 4.92 lakh	Rs. 69.32 lakh
5.	Fish farming in Government owned water bodies with Aerator	10X5	Rs. 17.5 lakh	Rs. 1728.00 lakh	Rs. 1745.5 lakh
6.	Construction of landing ghat in government 'Beel' / Baors	20	Rs. 100.00 lakh	Rs. 460.00 lakh	Rs. 560.00 lakh
Total			Rs. 1413.12 lakh	Rs. 2291.92 lakh	Rs. 3705.04 lakh

III. Department of Sports

A special convergence meeting on Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA) was organized by the Department of Sports on 28 APRIL 2014 in which the Joint Secretary from the Ministry laid down the basic features of the initiative and the cost norms. Following the meeting, the Department of Sports proposed development of 36 sports complexes at the Block level (2 per block for 19 units) with 50:50 sharing of resources between MGNREGS and the Departmental allocation. Cost per unit came to Rs.160.00 lakh equally shared between the two programs. Accordingly for development of 36 Sports Complexes, MGNREGS is supposed to contribute Rs. 2280.00 lakh with equal contribution from RGKA. For the Gram Panchayat level infrastructure, only MGNREGS shall contribute @Rs.2.00 lakh per Gram Panchayat for development of basic play field in 180 Gram Panchayats, thus earmarking Rs. 360.00 lakh from the MGNREGS coffer.

Thus total convergence plan for the Sports activities can be seen from the following table:

(Rs. in lakh)

Work identified	Number of Units	Cost per Unit	MGNREGA contribution	JGKA Contribution
Sports Complexes at the Block level	36	160.00	2280.00	2280.00
Development of Play Ground at the Gram panchayat level	180	2.00	360.00	-
Total	216	-	2640.00	2280.00

IV. Convergence with Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan (NBA)

Government of West Bengal has taken an ambitious decision to achieve Open Defecation Free status for all the Gram Panchayats by March 2017. At present a total of 1072 Gram Panchayats out of a total of 3349 have declared 'Nirmal' status. Remaining 2277 Gram Panchayats have been distributed between three years from 2014-15 to 2016-17. For the 2014-15 financial year, the target is to achieve Nirmal Gram status in respect of 844 Gram Panchayats. A policy decision has been taken at the State level that MGNREGS shall converge with NBA in construction of Individual Household Latrines (IHHL). Cost sharing will be in the following pattern:

Source	Amount of contribution/ incentive
NBA	Rs.46000.00 in normal areas Rs. 5100.00 in IAP s/ identified difficult areas
MGNREGS	Rs.5400.00
Beneficiary contribution	Rs.900.00
Total	Rs. 10,900 in normal areas, Rs. 11,400 in IAP s /. Identified difficult areas

Accordingly, in 2014-15, total funding under NBA-MGNREGS convergence is indicated in the following table:

(Rs. in lakh)

No of IHHL to construct	Contribution from MGNREGS	Contribution from NBA	Beneficiary contribution	Total
1500000	81000.00	69000.00	13500.00	163500.00

V. Convergence with Indira Awaas Yojana and other Rural Housing schemes:

As indicated by the Ministry, the State Government has decided to provide an additional amount equivalent to 90 person-days for payment of wages to Job-Card holders for construction of one individual housing unit over and above the amount of Rs. 70,000/= to be allocated as incentive under IAY or other Rural Housing programs. In case of the IAP districts the support under RH will be to the tune of Rs. 75,000/= whereas MGNREGA contribution towards unskilled wages for the job-seekers will be equivalent to 95 person-days. However, for the purpose of the present calculation we have taken Rs. 70,000/= plus 90 person-days as the base. Accordingly, for construction of three lakh houses during 2013-14 (on reserved estimates) following will be the break-up of financial contributions: (Rs. in lakh)

Number of housing units	Contribution from Rural Housing	Contribution from MGNREGS	Total
3,00,000	210000.00	45630.00	255630.00

VI. Convergence with the programs of the Comprehensive Area Development Corporation (CADC):

The CADC under the Department of P&RD works in identified areas for comprehensive development of the area and the people within its area of operation. The Corporation has come up with a proposal to converge its resources under Rashtriya Krishi Vikash Yojana (RKVY) and the Backward Village Development Program with MGNREGS for certain specific interventions. The following table gives the financial outlay of the proposed convergence.

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of the scheme	Number of units	Cost /Unit cost	MGNREGS share	Departmental share	Total
1.	Goatery units for the SHGs	200	0.90	50.00	130.00	180.00
2.	Piggery units for the SHGs	40	5.50	52.00	168.00	220.00
3.	Poultry units for the SHGs	40	2.75	32.00	78.00	110

4.	Special land development initiative in Purulia	80 acres	1.10	80.00	8.00	88.00
5.	Establishment of progeny orchards by SHGs	500 units @ 0.25 acre/ unit	0.18	60.00	30.00	90.00
Total				274.00	414.00	688.00 I

The total quantum of convergence action plan as could be developed as yet is indicated in the following table:

(Rs. In lakh)

Sl.	Converging Department / program	MGNREGA contribution	Departmental contribution	Total funding
1.	FPI and Horticulture (DCOMP)	552.51	411.14	963.65
2.	Fisheries	1413.12	2291.92	3705.04
3.	Sports	2640.00	2280.00	4920.00
4.	NBA	81000.00	69000.00	150000.00
5.	IAY / RH	45630.00	210000.00	255630.00
6.	CADC	274.00	414.00	688.00
Total		131509.63	284397.06	415906.69

These initiatives in convergence with other departments/ programs are expected to generate an additional 6.00 crore person-days (approximately) in 2014-15 financial year.

12. Way forward:

The State Convergence Workshop under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary was held on 5 February, 2014. Following the workshop, communications were sent to the Departments requesting nomination of nodal officers and submission of the Departmental convergence action plans. Unfortunately action plans have not as yet been received from a number of Departments. Convergence action plans from some of the major Departments having potential for convergence like the Department of Forests, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Irrigation and Waterways, the

Department of Animal Resource Development, The Department of Water Resources Development have not as yet been received at the State level although the Departments are interacting with the districts with the request of making funding provision under MGNREGS for certain identified programs. All such Departments are again requested to submit their convergence action plan in line with the plans noted for certain other Departments in this document.

At the State level, a Core Committee on Convergence is formed with the nodal officers of the concerned Departments. The Committee, headed by the Commissioner, MGNREGA will meet every month to review the status of convergence including the process of preparation of convergence action plan by respective Department.

There will also be a Convergence Advisory Group to be chaired by the Principal Secretary of the Department where Secretaries of other Departments will be members. The advisory group will sit on a quarterly basis.

At the District level, there will be a Convergence Committee with the District Magistrate and the District Program Coordinator on the chair. District level officers of the line Departments will be members of the Committee which is expected to meet on a monthly basis. The District Nodal Officer of MGNREGS shall be responsible to report to the State Government in the Department the status of implementation of the convergence action plan in their Districts.



Principal Secretary
Panchayats & Rural Development Department
Government of West Bengal