

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR SCHEME FOR PROMOTING USAGE OF AGROTEXTILES IN INDIA (SIMILAR TO EXISTING SCHEME FOR NORTH EAST REGION)

1. INTRODUCTION

Agrotexiles are used in farming, agriculture, animal husbandry, sericulture and horticulture to control the hazardous influences of environmental and climatic factors on crop production and cattle breeding, regulate nutrient level intake of plants, silk worm rearing and assist in process and post-harvest operations. Agrotexiles have been demonstrated to be successful world over in not only protecting the crops from any external factors, but also in improving agricultural yield.

Field trials and pilot studies have demonstrated the following benefits of usage of agrotexiles:

- Increased productivity (50-80%, depending upon the nature of crop)
- Premium quality of produce (increased income by 50-60%)
- All season and any region cultivation of crops
- Early and even ripening of produce (more harvest cycles per year)
- Reduced water consumption (10-15%)
- Minimised use of fertilizers and pesticides (25-30%)
- Prevention of damages owing to birds, insects, hail, sunburns, falling off of ripened fruits (100% protection)
- Weed control, etc.

In order to promote and increase the usage of agrotexiles, in agriculture, horticulture/floriculture, sericulture and allied activities in India, Ministry of Textiles has decided to provide an intervention/component under Technology Mission on Technical Textiles (Extension) for Promotion Usage of Agrotexiles in all India (excluding North Eastern Region where a similar scheme exists), with three sub-components for a period of two years at a tentative cost of Rs 5.00 crores. SASMIRA being the Centre of Excellence in the field of Agrotexiles, has been associated with the scheme. SASMIRA is providing technical support for implementing the Scheme. The contact details of SASMIRA are as under:

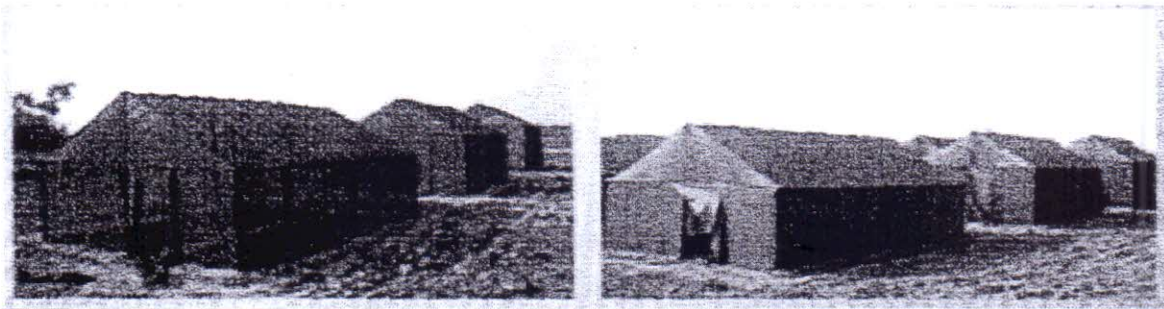
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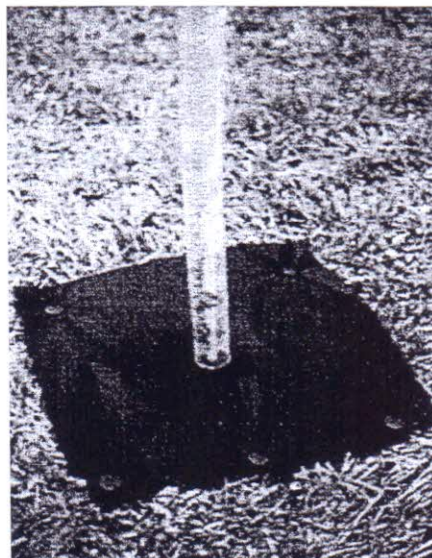


Shade Net

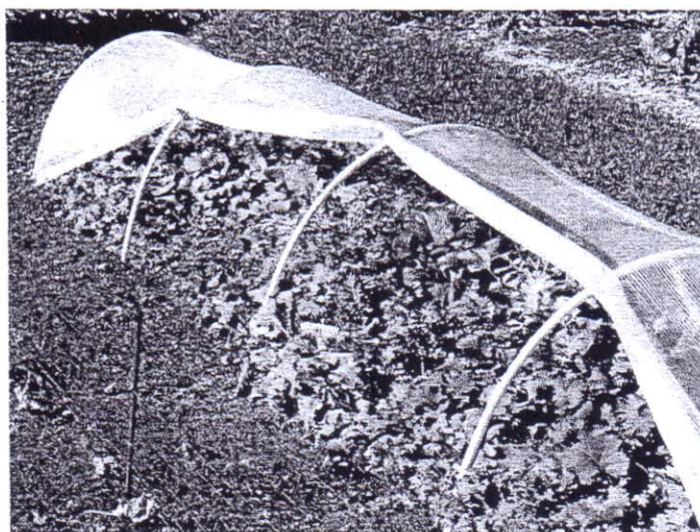
Shade Net



Ground cover



Mulch mat



Ground cover

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2. COMPONENTS OF THE INTERVENTION

Component I : Setting-up of Demonstration Centers - This component is for creating demonstration set-up to demonstrate the benefit of usage of Agrotextile products suitable for the region. The demonstration centers will be established to demonstrate the individual application of agrotextile products with different combinations as per the requirement and produce of the region. Such demo centers may consist of the following indicative list of agrotextile products with different combinations:

- i. Shade net house with drip irrigation.
- ii. Ground Cover
- iii. Hail protection nets
- iv. Bird protection Nets
- v. Vermicompost bed
- vi. Low tunnel for crop protection(Crop Covers)
- vii. Pond Liners

The demonstration centers are intended to provide the potential users an opportunity of understanding the advantages of Agrotextile materials and train them for the usage of such products for enhanced productivity, quality improvements etc. through live demonstration.

Component II : Provide/disburse agrotextiles kits to farmers - Agrotextile kits will be disbursed to the beneficiaries (local farmers / sericulturists /horticulturists etc). Central Government will bear 90% of the costs of the kits, and the remaining 10% will be borne by the beneficiary or by the concerned State Government. The beneficiaries may be encouraged to avail items in the kit in various combinations to yield maximum benefits, or any single item as per the requirement, based on actual expenditure subject to the overall ceiling of Rs 5 Lakhs per beneficiary. The supplied agrotextile products will be BIS Standards compliant (if available) or would be certified by COE- Agrotech. The distribution of Agrotextiles kits to the states will on first come first serve basis. Preference shall be given to drought prone areas. A standard kit will consist of the following:

- i. Relevant Agro-textiles Material, such as: Shade net house with drip irrigation etc; Ground Cover; Hail protection nets; Bird protection house; Vermicompost bed; Low tunnel for crop protection, pond liner etc;
- ii. Support structure made to support the agro-textiles material as per design wherever required.
- iii. Instruction Manuals and guidelines for the users about best practices; installation layouts and methods and use of the kit and its beneficial effects.

Component III : Any other activity where use of agrotextiles would facilitate agricultural activities.

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2.1 Eligible Agencies: State/Central Agriculture/Horticulture/Sericulture institutes/organizations/universities /KVKs etc.

Note: The organization/body selected should have adequate land available to set up a multi-modal demonstration centre and manpower to support the centre. The bodies so selected will be the owner of the demonstration centre and shall be called the 'Demo-centre owner'.

2.2 Eligible Agency for supplying and installing :-

- i. Agrotextile manufacturers/authorised dealers/suppliers willing to provide complete solution as above. The agency shall be registered under companies act/societies act/partnership act/LLP.
- ii. State/Central Agriculture/ Horticulture/ Sericulture institutes/ organizations/ universities and other bodies such as KVKs may also be considered for this activity in collaboration with the suppliers of Agrotech materials;
- iii. A consortium of bidders consisting of agrotextile producers/suppliers, supplier of structural material and installation agencies may also bid for these activities together;

Note : The 'Demo-centre Service Provider' will be paid for the material and services as enlisted above and shall not have any claim on the produce in the demo-centre during the period of its operation. After the initial period of 2 years the owner and the service provider may enter into an agreement for cost and profit sharing for running the demo-centre on a self-sustained mode. They may avail the services of SASMIRA for the same.

The agrotextiles kit consisting of the agrotextiles material and the support structure will be supplied as a package. The agency should be in a position to source support structure material and local material as per the specifications to be provided by the COE to support installation of the agro-textiles. Therefore, the supplier of the kit has to be able to supply both the agrotextiles material and the support structure, and install the same.

2.3 Operational Modalities:-

- i. The proposals shall either be invited by Office of the Textile Commissioner, Mumbai from eligible agencies with the help of State Governments or State Govts. will be encouraged to send small pilot projects for setting up Demonstration Centres and other activities for agrotextiles preferably in drought prone or adverse condition areas of the State. The proposals shall be considered on first come first serve basis.
- ii. Once the proposals are received by Office of the Textile Commissioner, Mumbai, the COE for Agrotextiles i.e. SASMIRA Mumbai shall carryout site inspection and submit its recommendations along with model, specification, estimated cost

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and combination of agro products etc of the Demonstration Center to be established.

- iii. Eligible and needy farmers shall be identified with the help of concerned State Govts, KVKs, NGO, Self help groups etc by COE-Agrotech (SASMIRA). Applications/proposals shall be invited from these farmers through the agency who has identified them. The proposals shall be considered on first come first serve basis. Preference shall be given to drought prone areas. Office of the Textile Commissioner shall provide necessary support to SASMIRA for inviting the applications/proposals.
- iv. Farmers who own agriculture/ sericulture/ horticulture land in India shall be eligible to get the kits under the scheme. The ownership of land shall be supported by government recognized documents. In order to be eligible to receive the kits the beneficiaries should have undergone training by the COE–Agrotech/Demo Centre established under the scheme or any other such centre set up by state/central Government to ensure effective application of the supplied agrotextile products.
- v. COE –Agrotextile(SASMIRA) shall provide necessary technical assistance for deciding the combination of Agrotextile kit suitable for a particular farmer. This may be done at the time of training the farmer in the Demonstration center.
- vi. The proposals shall be considered and approved by Textile Commissioner.
- vii. COE-Agrotech(SASMIRA,Mumbai) shall float tenders as per GFR for selection of Agency who shall supply and install the Demonstration Center. The composition of the purchase committee who shall select the Agency is at Annex.
- viii. The upper ceiling limit of establishment of one Demonstration Center and other activity shall be Rs. 15 Lakhs and for agrotextile kit for one beneficiary shall be Rs. 5 Lakhs.

2.4 Activities to be carried out by Demo Center Service Provider /Supplier:-

- i. Supply and installation of Agrotextiles material and maintenance thereof for the duration of two years;
- ii. Supply and installation of mechanical support structure wherever required and maintenance thereof for the duration of two years;
- iii. Supply of seed and seedlings; Manures, Fertilizers and pesticides and other agricultural materials as per the requirement of the centre for two years.
- iv. Land preparation and sowing and harvesting operations;
- v. Post harvest storage, Grading & packaging arrangements

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- vi. Engagement of technical and farm manpower for the above activities;

2.5 Training to farmers:-

COE-Agrotech shall impart training to the framers with the help of Service provider, KVKs, Agriculture experts etc at Demonstration Centers. COE-Agrotech shall be provided an amount of Rs. 2000 per farmer for imparting the training. The funding for training shall be given from the fund allocated for establishment of Demo-centers.

2.7 Release of Funds

Office of the Textile Commissioner, Mumbai will release funds as advance to SASMIRA (COE-Agrotextile) who in turn shall release the funds to vendors/ Demo-center Service provider as per the schedule given below .

For component I & III.

- i. 40% as advance on selection of agency, to be released against bank guarantee of equivalent amount valid for six months.
- ii. 40% on installation of Demo-Center and handing over of the same to the Demo-Center Owner. The fund shall be released after confirmation by Demo Center Owner and physical verification by COE-Agrotech (SASMIRA-Mumbai)/ Office of the Textile Commissioner, Mumbai.
- iii. 20% after the completion of two years of Establishment of Demonstration Center and on providing satisfactory services for two years.
- iv. Demo-Center service provider shall have to enter into Agreement with COE-Agrotech at the time of awarding the work for successful completion of the project.

For Component II

- i. 20% of the cost of the agrotexile kits to be paid upfront following placement of order by COE Agrotech against bank guarantee of like amount valid for 1 year
- ii. 10% of the cost of the agrotexile kits to be paid by beneficiaries/State Government/NGO at the time of distribution/purchase of kit to farmer.
- iii. 70% of the cost of the agrotexile kits to be paid against completion of supply, installation and verification of beneficiaries' receipt of approved agrotexile kits by COE Agrotech.
- iv. Bank Guarantee will be released at the end of the year after successful supply of agrotexile kits.

4. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHEME

Textiles Commissioner, Mumbai, will be the nodal officer directly in charge for the scheme and Office of the Textile Commissioner, Mumbai will act as the Implementing Agency (IA) for the Project. COE-Agrotextile (SASMIRA-Mumbai) shall provide the technical assistance and

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Scheme shall be implemented through COE-Agrotexile (SASMIRA-Mumbai)

5. TOTAL COST OF THE SCHEME

Total Cost of the Scheme (tentative): Rs 5.00 Crs

6. Project administration charges

Project administration charges will include administrative/ concurrent Monitoring such as, meeting expenses, local travel expenses, TA/DA expenses, manpower to COE Agrotech, Tendering expenses by COE-Agrotech etc. A total of Rs 20 lakhs is estimated to be provisioned for administration expenses, at 4.0% of the total project cost of Rs 5 crores.

7. SCHEME IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

The scheme will be implemented by the Govt. of India in coordination with the respective State Governments and Technical partners like the Centres of Excellence (COE-Agrotech) under Technology Mission on Technical Textiles (TMTT), Technical and Agriculture institutes and Universities, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Farmer clubs, NGO's, Self help groups and Manufacturers and suppliers of Agro-textiles materials and other agencies as may be required from time to time.

The main implementing agency of the scheme will be Office of Textiles Commissioner (OTXC), Mumbai.

- Textiles Commissioner will act as a nodal officer and Implementing Agency (IA) for the scheme.
- COE Agrotech will provide technical inputs and carry out other functions as indicated in respective scheme components.
- The technical institutes/international consultants may be involved as and when required for providing technical guidance, including establishment of agrotexile demonstration centres.

The progress of project will be informed to Ministry of Textiles from time to time. Any modifications /amendments shall be referred to Ministry of Textiles for approval.

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Annex

Composition and terms of reference of Purchase Committee for Demo Center and Agrotextile Kit

The powers for selection of agency/vendor /supplier for supply of Demo Center and Agrotextile Kit is with this committee. The composition of the Committee shall be as under:

1.	Jt. Textile Commissioner(T), Office of the Textile Commissioner, Mumbai	Chairman
2.	Executive Director, SASMIRA (COE Agrotech)	Member
3.	Under Secretary(Handling Technical Textiles),Ministry of Textiles.	Member
4.	Agriculture /Horticulture Expert	Member
5.	Executive Director, Indian Technical Textile Association, Mumbai	Member
6.	In charge Accounts Department of SASMIRA	Member
7.	An officer of SASMIRA nominated by Executive Director of SASMIRA	Member Secretary

The chairperson may co-opt the Subject Matter specialist from industry / academics as per requirement.

Terms of Reference of Purchase Committee for Demo Center & Agrotextile kit are as follows:

- i. The Committee will formulate and approve the tender document for Demonstration center and Agrotextile kit.
- ii. The committee will evaluate and select the agency for establishment of Demonstration Centers as per GFR.
- iii. The committee will evaluate and select the agency for supply of Agrotextile kits as per GFR.
- iv. Other roles & responsibilities as specified in the operational guidelines.

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