

Support to Farmers for Adopting Quality Standards

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Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) is implementing two Central Sector Schemes namely Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana (PMKSY) and Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Food Processing Industry (PLISFPI). Further, a Centrally sponsored scheme namely PM Formalization of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme is also being implemented.

Farmer producer organization (FPO) are eligible to apply under these schemes. Under PMKSY, the following preferential provisions have been made in component scheme guidelines of PMKSY for FPOs:

- i. Net Worth requirement reduced to amount equal to grant sought, in comparison to 1.5 times for proposals from general areas;
- ii. Term Loan requirement reduced to 10% of eligible project cost, in comparison to 20% for proposals from general areas;
- iii. Equity requirement reduced to 10% of eligible project cost, in comparison to 20% for proposals from general areas;
- iv. Quantum of grant at enhanced level of 50% of eligible project cost, in comparison to 35% for proposals from general areas (Subject to the maximum ceiling under respective sub-schemes);
- v. Requirement of minimum project cost reduced to Rupees One Crore, in comparison to rupees Three Crores in respect of Creation / Expansion of Food Processing & Preservation Capacities Scheme projects [for other component schemes, no such criteria is fixed]

Under Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure component scheme of PMKSY, creation of farm level infrastructure in the catchment area of the targeted produce is mandatory. Similarly, under Integrated Value Chain Development Projects of Operation Greens component scheme of PMKSY, formation of new FPOs, Controlled temperature/ ventilated vehicle and Marketing Infrastructure (Retail chain of outlets for perishable products with facilities such as frozen storage/ cold room/ cold storage/ deep freezers/ refrigerated display cabinets/ chillers/ packing/ packaging/ ripening chamber etc.) are mandatory.

All these help in creation of linkage between farmers & food processors and thereby increasing the income of the farmers.

PMFME scheme provides for handhold support for formalization and operationalization of the micro food processing enterprises including FSSAI registration/licensing, as applicable. Under Capacity building component of the PMFME scheme, trainings in FSSAI regulations, safety and hygiene practices, food quality testing norms etc. is provided to ensure the outreach of food safety and hygiene practices to all micro food enterprises.

MoFPI also provide Grants for training of Trainers (Master Trainers, District Level Trainers), District Resource Persons, Food Processing Entrepreneurs and various other groups (SHGs/ FPOs/ Cooperatives). Grants upto 50% for branding and marketing support to groups of FPOs/ SHGs/ Cooperatives or a Special Purpose Vehicle of Micro Food Processing Enterprises is available under related component of PMFME Scheme.

This information was given by the Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Shri Ravneet Singh in a written reply in Lok Sabha today.

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