



Skilling under MGNREGA

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The central government is working on an initiative to move 10-12.5 million families within the ambit of the **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)** out of poverty **by imparting skills and creating durable assets.**

Background

- Under the **Livelihoods in Full Employment (LIFE) project** of the MGNREGA, started in 2015-16, the government provides training to eligible workers in the age group 15-35 years. However, this is restricted to MGNREGA workers who have completed 100 days' work.
- In a **mid-term review of the initiative**, a lot of states complained of slow progress.
 - States also complaint for **absence of stipends** (for loss of wages due to engagement in skilling),
 - **Candidates ineligibility for skilling** due to the age criterion, was also one of the main complaints of the states.

New Initiative Features

- The government is planning to **spend Rs 500-1,000 crore every year** on this and it will **not be limited** to those who completed 100 days of work under the MGNREGA.
- As part of the proposed initiative, each year **one member of 400,000-500,000 families will get training for 30-45 days.**
- **Stipends** will be provided for compensation of any loss in wages that may arise.
- Training will be provided within the mandated 100 days (of MGNREGA) and conducted under skill-development initiatives such as the **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)**, self-employment programmes run by banks, and the **National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM)**.
- The workers will be attached to **Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)** and trained in grafting, horticulture, growing fruit-bearing crops, etc.

Livelihoods in Full Employment (LIFE) Project

- The **Ministry of Rural Development** has formulated a project for '**Livelihoods in Full Employment**' under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (**Project LIFE-MGNREGA**) in **April 2015**.
- The project aims to **promote self reliance** and **improving the skill base of the MGNREGA workers**, and thereby improving the livelihood of the workers, so that they can move from current status of partial employment to full employment status.

Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY)

- The **Ministry of Rural Development** announced the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) **Antyodaya Diwas**, on 25th September 2014.
- It is the **demand driven placement linked skill training initiative** working under National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM).
- It uses skill training and placement in wage employment as a tool to **diversify income** and **enable sustained upward movement out of poverty**.
- DDU-GKY is **uniquely focused on rural youth** between the ages of 15 and 35 years from poor families.

Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs)

- KVK, is an integral part of the **National Agricultural Research System (NARS)**, which aims at assessment of location specific technology modules in agriculture and allied enterprises, through technology assessment, refinement and demonstrations.
- KVKs have been functioning as **Knowledge and Resource Centre** of agricultural technology supporting initiatives of public, private and voluntary sector for **improving the agricultural economy** of the district and are linking the NARS with extension system and farmers.
- The KVK scheme is **100% financed by the Government of India**.
- KVKs are sanctioned to **Agricultural Universities, ICAR institutes, related Government Departments and Non Government Organizations (NGOs)** working in Agriculture
- The first KVK was established in 1974 at **Puducherry**.

Source: BS