D.O.No.18-14/2010-NHM (Pt.)

November 12, 2015

The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare had launched “HORTNET” portal in the year 2011-12 for processing of applications of National Horticulture Mission and Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States schemes under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH). This online portal has been adopted by few States and received enthusiastic response from farmers/applicants.

2. The “HORTNET” system was launched by National Informatics Centre (NIC) in 2011 as a Farmer Centric Software with the objective to accomplish e-Governance in Horticulture Sector, envisaging total transparency in all the processes of workflow, i.e. online application filing, authentication, processing online payment to the beneficiary’s bank account, SMS based e-alert, etc. The Project enables all stakeholders to gain access to information and data on real-time basis for ensuring better delivery mechanism and efficient administration of the scheme promoting G2G, G2C, G2F interface with access to grassroots level data on ANY-TIME-ANY-WHERE basis. It is a single window online system which can be extended to all farmer centric schemes of horticulture, agriculture and allied sectors.

3. A review of the portal shows that only Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Telangana are using it for actual processing of applications. In fact, Karnataka, in the year 2015 has extended HORTNET payment gateway to District level with additional security feature of Bio-metrics. It seems that other States are not using the portal and are processing the application online.

4. The Government of India has been emphasizing the need for processing of applications by using modern ICT tools so that the subsidy can be directly transferred to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries using the payment gateway developed by NIC.

5. In view of the commitment of Government of India towards Digital India and e-Governance, it is requested that you may review the status of “HORTNET” uptake at your level and direct the
Horticulture Department to make it compulsory for processing of applications online through the "HORTNET" portal.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Siraj Hussain)

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