



Ref: CBEII/2023/LTR/027

Date: 04th September 2023

Shri Narendra Singh Tomar
Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

Room no. 120, Krishi Bhavan,

Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road,

New Delhi-110001

Tel: 011-23383370 ,23782691

Email Id- agrimin.india@gmail.com

Subject: Suggestion/ Inputs for OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR CROP RESIDUE MANAGEMENT – 2023- 24, issued by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

Dear Sir,

Background

1. With continued support for Continuation of National Biogas-Bioenergy & Waste to Energy projects under MNRE over the period of 2021-22 to 2025-26 with MNRE and various initiatives of Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, towards constitution of committee to examine the issues of paddy straw supply chain for its utilization in various units, Permission of export agri residue based Biomass and Biomass Briquettes and Pellets with DGFT, National Mission on use of Biomass on Thermal Power Plants with MoP and further addressing concerns working capital availability from fund of Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF), working on financial assistance of Agriculture Industry through NABARD as few of the many Benefiting schemes and policy interventions Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has worked upon.
2. We, Confederation of Biomass Energy Industry of India (CBEII) an apex industry body representing all stakeholders of the Biomass industry thank you for the overwhelming support and continued guidance.
3. Based on the Corp Residue Management – Operation guidelines issued for 2023 -24 issued by MoA&WF, where undersigned was a committee member representing industry, we would like to draw your kind attention for further enhancement of the policy for creating more aggressive, sustainable and co-existing Biomass (farm-agri residue based) Renewable Energy sector amongst other Renewable Energy segments with national and global prominence.

Suggestion and recommendation

4. CBEII representing the stake holder for the Biomass Biofuel Renewable domain suggest following points for consideration for inclusion in the CRM guidelines:
 - a) In addition to the current beneficiaries (which are individual farmers, Co-op, FPOs, Village Panchayats, CHCs) the guidelines to also include Biomass Aggregating Companies, thus enlarging the scope matrix and faster deployment with all round development.
 - b) The Identification of beneficiaries to also include Biomass Aggregating Companies (who deal with the farmers either directly or thru VLEs) in addition to State/District nodal agencies.

Page 1 of 4



- b) The Identification of beneficiaries to also include Biomass Aggregating Companies (who deal with the farmers either directly or thru VLEs) in addition to State/District nodal agencies.
- c) Guidelines should clarify that for both 3000 TPA & 4500 TPA supply chain projects, **large balers can be substituted / augmented with no. of small/standard balers** (size 20-30 kgs per bale) necessary for equivalent capacity & Financial assistance should be extended on capital cost of these equipment, thus not being restrictive to large bales only. This will remove the anomaly of small balers which is presently missed out to also get included in the support scheme, thus making the scheme more effective. **The Project scheme should also be applicable for small balers.**
- d) The Central and State government (On its behalf as well as the Beneficiary) & Industry (Primary Biomass Consumer) should jointly decide the Maximum Permissible Pricing of Biomass every Year & the beneficiary must have an obligation to adhere to the pricing.
- e) At the end of the harvest season, the equipment must be returned to the Industry by the Beneficiary. This equipment can be re-issued to the Beneficiary at the beginning of the next harvest season. The maintenance and serviceability of such project equipment should be in the scope of the Industry as the larger beneficiary.
- f) The policy should be applicable and cover all states PAN India, being at the National Level policy and not just few States such Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and NCT of Delhi. For example, projects coming up across India utilising such equipment should also get the benefit of the support, thereby putting the scheme to be available pan India basis.
- g) State wise harvested agri residues /crops or all kind of agri residues to be included, other than paddy should also be included as different states have different residue.
- h) The NABARD link for working capital support as mentioned in the scheme is ambiguous. A single platform disbursal mechanism should be there. When multiple funding agencies and funds are involved an allocation of disbursal can happen if we have one agency controlling allocation and disbursal. Further amplification on the working capital support is needed please.
- i) Referring Annexure II, One fire extinguisher for a 3000 & 4500 MT aggregation is an insufficient allocation which needs a review.
- j) Insurance should be included in the ambit of this policy to mitigate losses which may occur due to natural calamities.

Request for your attention

- 5. Our Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has given the clarion call of “**Ann data se Oorja data**” and in several of his addresses highlighted the great potential of Biomass as a source of renewable energy. Ministry of Power, MoEF&CC, MNRE & TERI etc. have recognized the various forms of Biomass energy as a net carbon neutral clean and renewable energy in various policy documents and communications.



6. We Confederation of Biomass Energy Industry of India (CBEII) as an Industry body request for inclusive of above suggestion and recommendation to encourage, strengthen the policy documents for a robust supply chain management benefitting the lowest stakeholder the farmer to the end user in supply chain, supporting Biomass Renewable Energy sector in comparison to other Renewable Energy segments at national and global level.
7. Looking forward to favorable urgent consideration on our request which is in favour of Public Health and Environment, since the scheme targets utilisation of the funds in the harvest season of Oct-Nov 2023 and thus this needs urgent attention for clarification to be issued please.
8. We on behalf of CBEII and the biomass industry, seek time from your good office to have a detail discussion on the suggestion submitted.

Looking forward for your positive response.

Jai Hind!

Kind regards,



LT Col Monish Ahuja (Retd)

Chairman, CBEII

&

Committee Member, MoA&FW (OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR CROP RESIDUE MANAGEMENT -2023-24)

Mob: +91 88980 57100 / +91 90046 73858

Email: monishahuja@cbeii.org ; monishahuja@prespl.com

Encl:

1. **Shri Kailash Choudhary**
Hon'ble Minister of State (Agri & Farmers Welfare)
Room No. 199Q, Krishi Bhavan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road,
New Delhi - 110001
Tel: 011-23782343, 23388165, 23382756, 23782565
Email id: kailash.chaudharimp@nic.in
2. **Shri Manoj Ahuja**
Secretary
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
Room no. 115, Krishi Bhavan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road,
New Delhi-110001
Tel: 23382651, 23388444, 23386004
Email Id: secy-agri@gov.in





3. **Smt. S. Rukmani**
Joint Secretary (M&T, DM, EA, O&M/PG, RTI), DA&FW
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Mechanization and Technology Division)
Room No. 149, Krishi Bhavan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road,
New Delhi-110001
Tel: +91-011-23381305
Email Id: s.rukmani@nic.in

4. **Shri Arvind Meshram**
Deputy Commissioner Mechanisation & Technology
Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Mechanization and Technology Division)
Room no. 573, Krishi Bhavan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road,
New Delhi-110001
Tel: +91-011-23382922
Email Id: arvind.meshram@gov.in ; arvind.meshram@nic.in

