



सत्यमेव जयते

Guidelines  
For  
Grants In Aid  
To NGO/VO

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
Ministry of Water Resources

Govt. of India  
Ministry of Water Resources

**Guidelines for Grants-in-Aid to NGOs**

**1. Background**

- 1.1. Water is fundamental to ensuring food security and sustainable livelihood. Due to growing population and rapid urbanization, there is increased demand for water for various purposes, viz., domestic and municipal needs, irrigation, hydropower generation, navigation and industrial uses, etc. These are serious challenges like decreasing per capita availability of water, deterioration in water quality, over-exploitation of ground water resources leading to lowering of groundwater table in some areas, time and cost over-runs in completion of irrigation and multipurpose projects and poor maintenance of the existing facilities, natural disasters related to water i.e., flood and droughts, etc. In addition, there is large temporal and spatial variation in availability of water. Preliminary studies in respect of impact of climate change on water resources indicate that various components of the hydrological cycle would be affected resulting in further intensification of temporal and spatial variations in the water availability. This situation calls for urgent steps for conservation and efficient use of the available water resources with the active involvement of the people.
- 1.2. The Ministry of Water Resources has launched National Water Mission under the National action Plan for Climate Change with the main objective of *"conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management"*. The five identified goals of the Mission are:
- (a) Comprehensive water data base in public domain and assessment of impact of climate change on water resource;
  - (b) Promotion of citizen and state action for water conservation, augmentation and preservation;
  - (c) Focused attention to vulnerable areas including over-exploited areas;
  - (d) Increasing water use efficiency by 20%, and
  - (e) Promotion of basin level integrated water resources management.
- 1.3. The National Water Mission Goal - 2: *Promotion of citizen and state action for water conservation, augmentation and preservation*, inter-alia include the strategy to encourage participation of NGOs in various activities related to water resources management, particularly in planning, capacity building and mass awareness. Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) / Voluntary Organizations (VOs) are found to be

very effective in mobilizing communities at the grass root level, and therefore, their involvement in the fields of preservation, conservation and efficient use of water throughout the country would go a long way in achieving the objectives of water security, food security and sustainable livelihood to the people.

## **2. Primary Objectives and Guiding Principles**

2.1. The Ministry proposes to utilize the services of reputed, non-profit, secular NGOs with proven track record in identified fields of activity relating to the water resources sector. NGOs working at the national, state and the district levels will be identified through a process of registration based on their track record. An illustrative list of the type of projects in which NGOs could be involved are given in **Annexure-A**.

2.2. There shall be a Committee with following composition to screen the applications for registration;

(a) Joint Secretary (PP)	- Chairman
(b) Chief Engineer, CWC	- Member
(c) Member, CGWB	- Member
(d) Director (Finance)	- Member
(f) SJC / Director dealing with NGO Scheme	- Member Secretary

2.3. This Screening Committee will lay down a set of objective criteria for granting registration to the NGOs as part of detailed procedure for registration and release of grants-in-aid. However, the following criteria will be given primary consideration:

(a) Grants-in-aid can be given to a person or a public body or an institution having a distinct legal entity as specified in rule 206 of GFR 2005 as amended from time to time.

(b) The applicant organization should have been in existence for a minimum period of three years (as evidenced by audited accounts and annual reports) and not black listed by any Central or State Government department or agency. Registration under the NGO Partnership System of the Planning Commission, Possession of credibility rating, ISO certification, etc., from one or more of the established institutions would be added advantages during the processing of applications.

(c) The organization should have proven experience in handling projects related to water resources development and/or management. It should also have adequate human resources and infrastructure to carry out the proposed activities.

2.4. The Screening Committee may utilize the services of a professional agency to verify the credentials, etc., of the applicant organization and

may seek additional information from the applicant organization either directly or through the professional agency. The applicant organization shall extend full support in providing information and during verification.

- 2.5. The organizations may be grouped according to their expertise and geographical regions of operation and the resources (manpower, equipments, etc.) at their command.
- 2.6. The registration of any NGO/VO made under these guidelines will generally be valid for a period of five years. The Ministry reserves the right to deregister any NGO at any point of time for any of the following reasons or any other reason as may be announced from time to time:
  - (i) Fraud/misappropriation/misutilisation of funds released by the Ministry;
  - (ii) Involvement of the agency in any criminal / anti national activity;
  - (iii) Breach of Agreement of a serious nature, eg., failure to submit progress reports and utilization certificates;
  - (iv) Any other reason which affects the credibility of the agency;
- 2.7. Appeal against refusal of registration or deregistration will lie with Additional Secretary (Water Resources), whose decision shall be final and binding.
- 2.8. These guidelines do not envisage financial support for establishment or expansion of any NGO other than the administrative expenses especially sanctioned for the Scheme/Project.
- 2.9. Grant-in-aid to NGOs shall be provided as per the extant financial rules governing grants-in-aid to Non-Governmental Organizations through a transparent mechanism. The principles and procedure for award of grants-in-aid would be as per provisions of GFR 2005 as amended from time to time. The details of the procedure will be issued from time to time by the Ministry and made public through website.
- 2.10. The project proposals will be received round the year. The project proposal will be examined by an Expert Committee with the following composition;

(a) Additional Secretary (WR)	- Chairman
(b) Member (WP&P), CWC	- Member
(c) Chairman, CGWB	- Member
(d) Joint Secretary (A&PP)	- Member
(e) Joint Secretary & FA	- Member
(f) Principal Secretary/Secretary of the States/UTs where proposed project is located	- Member(s)

(f) SJC / Director  
dealing with NGO Scheme

- Member Secretary

- 2.11. The Expert Committee may utilize the services of a professional agency to scrutiny the project proposal and may seek additional information from the applicant organization either directly or through the professional agency. The applicant organization shall extend full support in providing information and during scrutiny.
- 2.12. The applicant organization may also be called for making a presentation [if required] before the Expert Committee. Based on recommendation of the Committee, the project proposal will be processed in the Ministry for approval and release of grants-in-aid. Normally, the Expert Committee will meet at least twice a year.
- 2.13. The decision on providing financial support will be taken mainly on the basis of merit of the project proposal together with the credibility and past record of the applicant organization, and on recommendations of the Expert Committee.
- 2.14. Appeal against refusal of financial support would be decided by Secretary (Water Resources), whose decision shall be final and binding.
- 2.15. Any assets created out of the Government financial support will be property of the Government, which may be leased/transferred to any Central / State Government / Panchayati Raj Institutions / any other organizations or to the NGO itself on completion of the project as per decision of the Expert Committee in larger public interest.

### **3. Funding and period of support**

- 3.1. ~~The grants-in-aid to the NGOs shall be provided from the Head of Account of Plan Scheme on "Implementation of National Water Mission", "HRD/Capacity Building", "Research & Development", etc., as per the approved EFC Memos for the XIIth Five Year Plan. Till then, the releases can be made from the approved schemes included in the XIth Five Year Plan.~~
- 3.2. The guidelines envisage financial support to the NGOs for periods up to three years to carry out the activities identified in the policy with measurable impact indicators. The Expert Committee based on merits and proper justification can extend the period of funding up to a maximum period of five years. This restriction will not apply to cases where any NGO is providing support to any specific scheme or project implemented by the Ministry. In order to avoid over-dependence of NGOs on the government support, as also to encourage the project implementing NGO to mobilize funds from other sources including community's own funds, the applicant agency will bring in at least

---

10% of the project outlay as its contribution. The organizations supported for longer periods are expected to develop into Centers of Excellence over a period of time and will serve as models for other organizations working in water sector.

- 3.3. The recipients of funds from the Government shall have to enter into an Agreement with the Ministry. A standard agreement format will be prescribed for this purpose which will be made public through website of the Ministry. The NGO will be required to report on the physical and financial progress periodically in the prescribed format(s). Any breach of Agreement could entail legal action as well as deregistration of the NGO, which will also be reported to the Planning Commission and other Ministries also. Maximum upto 50% of the sanctioned funds, for a financial year, will be released to the agency as the first instalment. Release of subsequent instalments (maximum two) will be subject to proper utilization of funds and satisfactory performance as evaluated by a designated agency to be decided by the Expert Committee. If considered necessary, site inspections by a Panel of Experts and/or senior officers of the Ministry may be carried out. Periodical progress review will be conducted.

**4. Monitoring and Evaluation:**

Effective, expeditious, transparent and scientifically designed monitoring and reviewing mechanisms will be used. The projects implemented by the NGOs utilizing the funds released by the Ministry will be subjected to concurrent and post project evaluation by an independent agency. The Ministry may also take up the audit of the accounts of the NGO to ensure proper utilization of the funds.

---

Annexure - A

Indicative List of Priority Areas/Activities for NGOs' Participation

- (a) Promotion of Water literacy, awareness building, sensitization, training etc at stakeholder level.
- (b) Development and promotion of innovative technologies, techniques, processes, products, etc. for effective water augmentation, conservation and management (R&D).
- (c) Promotion of water-efficient technologies and techniques (awareness building).
- (d) Capacity Building / development of skilled manpower through trainings (e.g. barefoot engineers, technicians, communicators).
- (e) Data collection at local and regional scales.
- (f) Organization of annual Interaction Workshops at regional and national levels to deliberate on the issues of user needs and potential solutions, and on sharing success stories (with line departments, NGOs, industry, other stakeholders) as well as failures and reasons for failures.
- (g) Water demand assessment and management at local and regional scales.
- (h) Adaptation of appropriate technologies with required upscaling / downscaling (including judicious mix of traditional and modern technologies from India and neighbouring countries).
- (i) Any other activity decided by the authorised committee from time to time.