

No: SFAC/43/Parl.Qus/2024-25 | 1124
Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium
5th Floor, NCUI Auditorium Building,
August Kranti Marg, Hauz Khas, New Delhi – 110016

Dated 22.11.2024

To,

Under Secretary (Marketing –II)
Department of Agriculture & Farmer Welfare.
Krishi Bhawan
New Delhi

Sub: Inputs for Rajya Sabha Provisionally Admitted Starred Diary no. 1098 due for reply on 27.11.2024 - reg.

Sir,

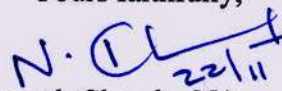
Please refer to your mail letter dated 19.11.2024 on the above subject. In this regard, point wise reply is furnished as below:

S.No.	Question	Reply as far as SFAC is concerned
a)	What is being done to support female entrepreneurs in rural Karnataka, particularly in handicrafts and cottage industries;	<p>1. SFAC does not have any information about female entrepreneurs in rural Karnataka, particularly in handicrafts and cottage industries. SFAC works as a Central Nodal Agency under the Central Sector Scheme for “Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)”. Under this scheme, FPOs are formed for leveraging collectives through economics of scales in production and marketing of agricultural & allied sector.</p> <p>2. As per the guideline of the “Formation and Promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)” scheme, FPO may provide special focus to include small, marginal and <i>women farmers/women SHGs</i>, SC/ST farmers and other economically weaker categories etc. as members to make FPOs more effective and inclusive.</p> <p>3. In Karnataka, 346 FPOs are formed under the 10,000 FPOs scheme in which 70 FPOs have more than 50% women farmer shareholders.</p>
b)	Are there specific programs to assist women’s self-help groups in accessing markets beyond Karnataka; and	The FPOs get access to funds in form of FPO management cost, equity grant and credit guarantee facility apart from capacity building trainings, market and credit linkages etc as below:
c)	Has the Ministry offered financial assistance or training for digital marketing skills?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provision of FPO Management Cost of Rs. 18 lakh/FPO for 3 years for office and operational expenses.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of matching Equity Grant of upto Rs. 2000/- per farmer with the ceiling of Rs. 15 lakh/FPO. • Provision of Credit Guarantee up to project loan of Rs.2.00 Crore per FPO. • Capacity building, training and skill development of CEOs/Accountants/BoDs and other stakeholders <p>Efforts are being made to provide the exposure to FPOs to different marketing platforms to access the wider geographies and fetch better prices. Currently, online platforms such as ONDC, e-NAM, GeM, etc. are available to FPOs & they are provided regular training on these portals.</p>
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Yours faithfully,


 (Prasanth Chander N.)
 Dy. Director (Admn.)