

OFMAS: Online Farm Mechanization Application Software of Bihar

Bihar, with the help of modern technology, scientific methods and high quality inputs can easily double the agricultural production and enrich the quality of life in rural areas. However, the major challenge is the inadequacy of farm power and machinery with the farmers for increasing agricultural productivity. In recent times, the use of farm machinery, has slowly made its way in the state under the central and state government initiatives Medium and large scale farmers are encouraged with govt. subsidies to buy advanced, medium and high capacity machinery such as tractor, power tiller, rotavator, combine harvester etc. Making use of ICT, the Govt. of Bihar initiated subsidy distribution through a common platform called OFMAS.



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OFMAS facilitates farmers, dealers and manufacturers to sell and purchase farm implements in a

transparent and cost effective manner. OFMAS is a role-based and workflow based online web application (<http://krishi.bih.nic.in>). The application offers various G2G, G2B and G2C services.

Government officials can use the application for monitoring the entire process at various levels. Dealers can use the system to easily approach the farmers for selling their products while farmers can apply online for availing subsidy on farm machinery. Built-in SMS features are available to provide timely alerts at various stages of processing of application. The software is developed in ASP.NET using C# with Microsoft SQL Server database. The software is security audited. The various roles defined in the application are:

- Agriculture Coordinator
- Block Agriculture Officer
- District Agriculture Officer
- Director Agriculture &
- Dealer

CHALLENGES BEFORE IMPLEMENTATION OF OFMAS

- The department was unsure of receiving online applications from



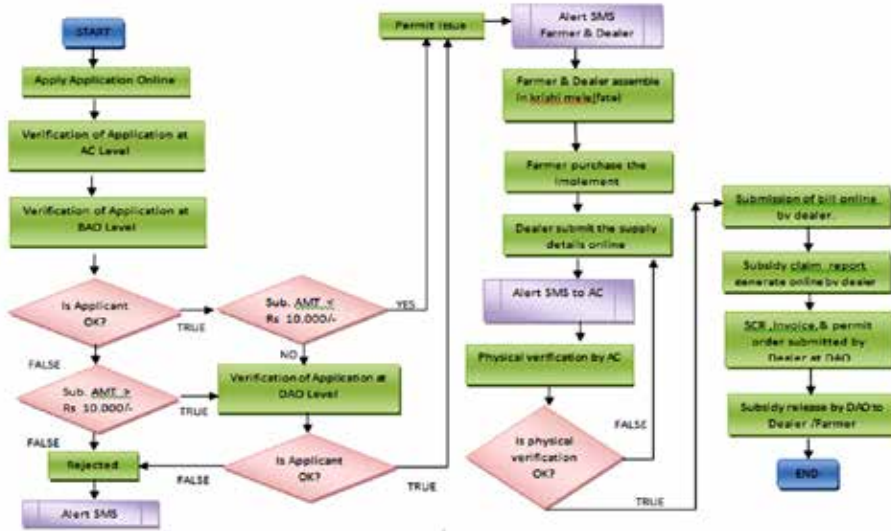
“ Online Farm Mechanization Application Software (OFMAS) designed, developed and hosted by National Informatics Centre, Bihar and implemented by Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Bihar has given a new impetus in implementing ICT in Agriculture Department. The role based software has brought transparency in the distribution process of government subsidy for farm machinery to the farmers. The software has been widely accepted by the officials, farmers, manufacturers and dealers. The software is helpful in planning, monitoring and preparing logistics for the government. I heartily appreciate the dedicated joint team effort of NIC and officers of the Department of Agriculture, Government of Bihar. ”

DHARMENDRA SINGH, IAS

Director
Agriculture, Govt. of Bihar

remote districts/blocks of the state.

- Maintaining applications and various records was very cumbersome at the block and district level.
- Selection and distribution of subsidy was not transparent and complaints were received at various stages regarding malpractices.



Application Flow chart of OFMAS

- Same machines were sold more than once to corner subsidy.
- Old machineries were shown as the new ones.
- Middlemen use to corner the Govt. subsidy from gullible farmers.
- Improper verification and tests of farm machinery sold to the farmers
- Lack of monitoring mechanisms at block, district and state level

SALIENT FEATURES & FUNCTIONALITY OF OFMAS

- Online Dealer Registration
- Category wise target distribution at four levels (State/District/Block/GP)
- Maintaining category and implementation wise pattern of subsidy assistance at state level

“ The OFMAS Application Software has closed the gaps at various levels and has won the confidence of the farmers and the officials in bringing transparency in distribution of govt. subsidy in agriculture and allied sectors. ”

RAJESH KUMAR SINGH
SIO Bihar

- Farmers can apply online for purchasing approved implements from anywhere
- SMS alerts to various stakeholders
- Verification of genuineness of the farmer by the officials at Panchayat, block and district level
- The software incorporates FIFO at all stages of the application flow
- Generation of permits at Block and District level
- Purchase and physical verification of the implements by the Agriculture Coordinator
- Uploading of the documents by Dealer and AC
- Approval and distribution of subsidy by the DAO
- Tracking of application and status update at various levels
- M&E at various stages to keep track of the applications
- Transparency at all levels
- Online Grievance Monitoring System
- Maintains user logs
- Keeps a check on machines having duplicate engine no./ machine no.

The software has incorporated various ongoing schemes under the Central and State Governments. The schemes are RKVY, NFSM, NMOOP, BGREI, SMAM, State Plan and Anna Bhandaran Yojana.

STATISTICS

More than three lakh online applications have been received so far and more than two lakh permits were issued in the financial year 2014-2015. The total subsidy distributed using the system stands at more than ₹ 150 crores. Around 966 manufacturers having 4339 dealers have sold around 70 implements through OFMAS. More than 20 lakh SMS have been sent at various stages. Around 1200 departmental users are successfully using the software to sanction/approve the subsidy to the farmers.

IMPACT

OFMAS has raised the expectations of farmers and officials at all levels. The timely and speedy distribution of subsidy in transparent manner has reinstated the faith of the farmers in the government system. Earlier many complaints were received at the district and state level like missing applications, non-distribution of subsidies, claiming subsidies without purchasing the farm machinery etc. OFMAS has opened the scope for computerization of subsidy distribution in many other areas of agriculture and allied services. OFMAS has benefited farmers in far off villages especially those who have taken interest to apply online for procuring the farm machinery. They have brought change in the rural areas by increasing the farm productivity.

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