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**ICAR-INDIAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
NEW DELHI-12**

No. TRP-2/2025-RTI(Misc.)27

Dated: 31-07-2025

**RTI Third Party Audit Report (2024-25) of
National Horticulture Board
(Under Deptt. of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, GoI)**

RTI Act, 2005 provisions for proactive disclosure of information related to each Govt. institution/entity by concerned public authority under section 4(1). For implementation of Suo motu disclosure under Section 4 of RTI Act, 2005 a detailed guideline, explaining each point of disclosable information, was issued by DoPT, GoI vide No. 1/6/2022-IR dated 15th April, 2013. Further, DoPT vide OM dated 10-12-2013 and 22-9-2014 requested all the Ministries/Departments to comply with O.M. guidelines dated 15-4-2013 and also the proactive disclosure package to be got audited by a third party.

DoPT O.M. No. 1/34/2013-IR dated 29-6-2013 instructs the public authority for uploading the details of public authority on website, user friendly access to get provided information, setting up effective system to redress the grievance to minimize RTI application, as well as the information relating to service matter should be brought into public domain. Further, to strengthen the implementation of Section 4 of the RTI Act, 2005 DoPT vide O.M. dated 30-6-2016 guides the Public Authorities to constitute Consultative Committee consisting of stakeholders, to set up of Information and Facilitation Centre, to constitute committee of experienced officer to categorize frequently asked questions, and to provide proactive disclosure properly categorized and organised etc.

In each Public authority, the responsibility to prepare and update the proactive disclosure packet remain with junior and middle level officers and their subordinates as well.

While filling up the self-appraisal form on CIC portal, a go through of DoPT O.M.'s guidelines dated 15-4-2013 and subsequent O.M.s would ensure the maximum information feeding correctly with quality. The proactive disclosure packet under 'RTI Head' may contain information, supporting documents & annexures and the correct & functional path to reach the information.

The auditor has gone through the website of the institution looking into the availability of the information claimed as per submitted filled in self-appraisal form. There has been detailed and easily accessible information about the functions and activities of the Institution. The institution is dedicated to production clusters/hubs for integrated Hi-tech commercial horticulture, development of Post-harvest and cold chain infrastructure, ensuring availability of



quality planting material and to promote adoption of new technologies/tools/ techniques for Hi-tech commercial horticulture for which various schemes and programme are also being run. The farmers, FPOs, the youth, students, the business persons and the general public will be much benefitted with the information. However, the following observations may be kept in mind for future reference:

1. RTI awareness cum training program may be organized for updating the staff with RTI provisions/guidelines. iGOT karmayogi platform may also be used, training certificate may be placed in proactive disclosure packet.
2. Documents related to functioning & schemes may be compiled and custodians may be indicated against certain documents.
3. Budget related information as demand of budget, head wise budget received, RE and financial statement Report 2024-25 may be placed on the website.
4. Annual Report 2024-25 may be put on the website.
5. The Consultancy Committee/Committee of PIOs/FAAs as per DoPT O.M. dated 30-6-2016 may be constituted.
6. STQC Certificate is given by Standardization Testing & Quality Certificate, Directorate, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Govt of India which provides assurance services for quality and security in electronics and IT, including website quality certification. STQC has developed a Website Quality Certification Scheme based upon National and International Standards/Best practices. The same may be obtained

The information provided by public authority on the website is satisfactory.

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