



**National Programme  
of  
Mid-Day Meal in Schools  
(MDMS)  
Annual Work Plan & Budget**

**2021-22**

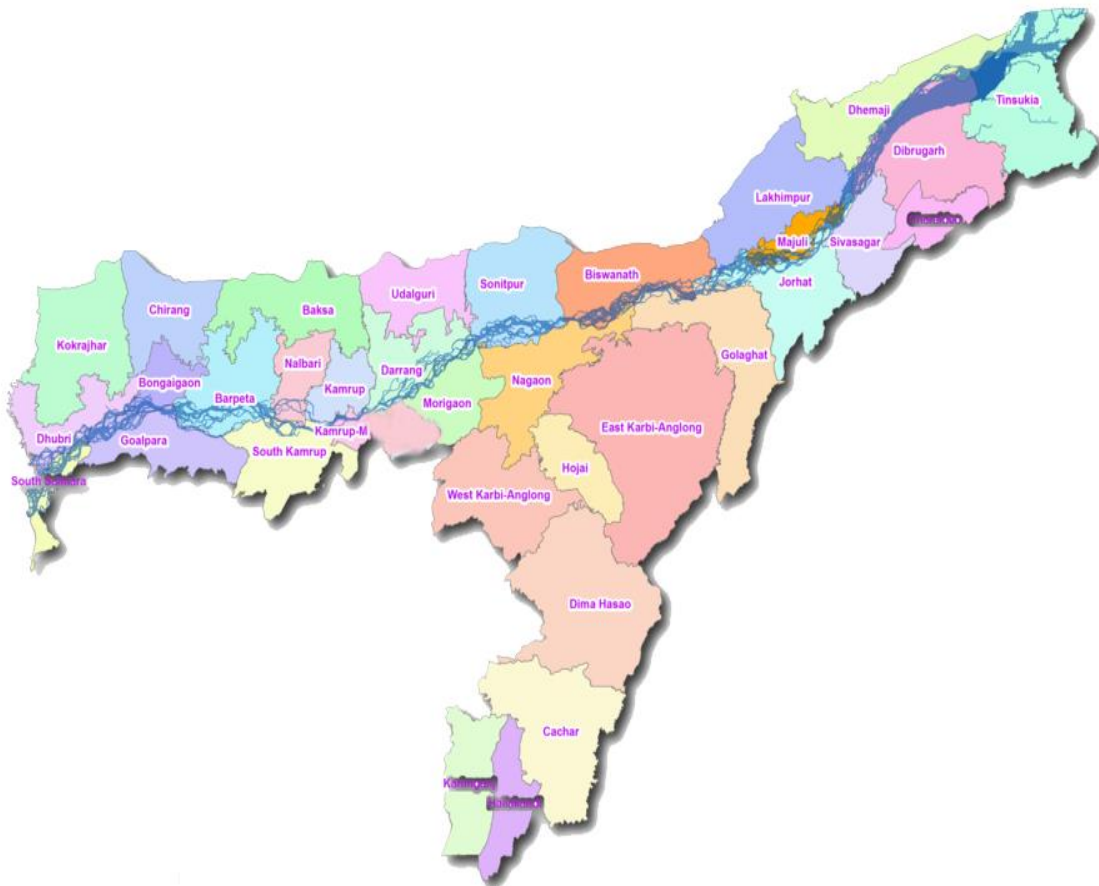
**Name of the State/UT  
Assam**

Mid Day Meal Programme  
Annual Work Plan and Budget 2021-22

## 1. Introduction:

### State Profile at a Glance:

Assam is the eastern most sentinel of India endowed with enchanting and picturesque natural beauty. The State is adorned with beautiful lush covers of greenery, a chain of hills and rivers mainly the Brahmaputra and the Barak. It has been the living place of various races, tribes and ethnic groups since time immemorial. The dynamics of synthesis and assimilation of the races make Assam glorified and rich. Assam is situated in the North-East of India and is the largest north eastern state in terms of population while second in terms of area. Assam covers an area of 78,438 km<sup>2</sup> (30,285 sq miles). The state is bordered by Bhutan and the state of Arunachal Pradesh to the north; Nagaland and Manipur to the east; Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram and Bangladesh to the south; and West Bengal to the west. A significant geographical aspect of Assam is that it contains three of six physiographic divisions of India – The Northern Himalayas (Eastern Hills), The Northern Plains (Brahmaputra plain) and Deccan Plateau (Karbi Anglong).



***Pic: Map of Assam***

## Assam History

There are several opinions to the origin of the name “Assam”. In the ancient Sanskrit literature both the names ‘Pragjyotisha’ and ‘Kamrupa’ were used as designation for ancient Assam. Its antiquity can be established from the fact that it has been mentioned in the two great epics- The Mahabharata and the Ramayana and also in the Puranas. Regarding the name ‘Prajyotisha’ or ‘Pragjyotishpura’, Gait (1992, reprint) writes that Prag means ‘former’ or ‘eastern’ and Jyotisha ‘a star’, astrology, shining. Pragjyotishpur may, therefore, be taken to mean the ‘City of Eastern Astrology’.

References of Kamarupa are found in literature as well as in many epigraphs. The mythology regarding the origin of the name Kamarupa tells us the story of Sati who died due to the discourtesy shown to her husband by her father Daksha. Overcome by grief, Shiva carried her dead body and wandered throughout the world. In order to put a stop to this, Vishnu used his discus to cut the body into pieces, which then fell into different places. One such piece fell down on Nilachal hills near Gauhati and the place was henceforth held sacred as Kamakhya. But Shiva’s penance did not stop, so the Gods sent Kamdev, the cupid to break his penance by making him fall in love. Kamdev succeeded in his mission, but Siva enraged at this result, burnt Kamdev to ashes. Kamdev eventually regained his original form here and from then onward the country came to be known as Kamarupa (Where Kama regained his Rupa or form).

The name ‘Aham’ or ‘Asom’ was probably given by the Ahoms who came to Assam in 1228 A.D. Even though the origin is ambiguous but it is believed that the modern name Assam is itself an anglicization.

The Ahom’s entered Assam fully assimilated and ruled Assam for nearly six hundred years. The period of Ahom rule is a glorious chapter in the history of Assam. The Ahom dynasty was established by Sukaphaa, a Shan prince of Mong Mao who came to Assam after crossing the Patkai Mountains. It is between 13th and 19th century that several tribal communities also came into the historical forefront of Assam. Kacharis, Chutias and Koch were the prominent tribal groups that were found in the medieval times of Assam. The rule of this dynasty ended with the Burmese invasion of Assam and the subsequent annexation by the British East India Company following the Treaty of Yandaboo in 1826. The British emperor took charge of the state and thus begun the colonial era of Assam.

Assam lost much of its territory to new states that emerged from within its borders. The British annexed Cachar in 1832 and Jaintia Hills in 1835. In 1874, Assam became a separate province with Shillong as its capital. Sylhet was merged with East Bengal on partition of India. With the partition and independence of India in 1947, the district of Sylhet (excluding the Karimganj subdivision) was ceded to Pakistan (the eastern portion of which later became Bangladesh).

However, like all other states of India, Assam was also involved in various freedom movements. With the enthusiastic participation of many courageous activists Assam, Assam became a constituent state of India in 1950. It saw further reduction of its area when Dewangiri in North Kamrupa was ceded to Bhutan in 1951. The capital of Assam was formerly Shillong (now the capital of Meghalaya), and later

shifted to Dispur, a suburb of Guwahati, in 1972. The States of Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram got their own separate states.

The history of Assam has passed several stages of development to reach to its present state. The history of Assam can be divided into four eras. The ancient era began in the 4th century with the mention of Kamarupa in Samudragupta's inscriptions on the Allahabad pillar and the establishment of the Kamarupa kingdom. The medieval era began with the attacks from the Bengal Sultanate, the first of which took place in 1206 by Bakhtiyar Khilji as mentioned in the Kanai-boroxiboa rock inscription, after the breakup of the ancient kingdom and the sprouting of medieval kingdoms and chieftain-ships in its place. The colonial era began with the establishment of British control after the Treaty of Yandaboo in 1826, and the post-colonial era began in 1947 after the Independence of India.

The first Governor of independent Assam was Sir Muhammad Saleh Akbar Hydari and Chief Minister was Gopinath Bordoloi who witnessed the foundations laid of Gauhati University (1948), Gauhati High Court (1948) and Guwahati station of All India Radio (AIR). When Gopinath Bordoloi passed away in 1950, Bishnu Ram Medhi took over as the next Chief Minister of Assam. During his tenure from 1950 to 1957, the First Five-Year Plan was started, Panchayat system of governance was introduced and the agricultural sector got more importance.

Bimla Prasad Chaliha was the third chief minister from 1957 to 1970. In 1958th the 66th session of Congress was held at Jalukbari, Guwahati. The Saraighat Bridge was constructed over the Brahmaputra river (1965), an Oil refinery was established at Noonmati, Guwahati in 1962 during his time. In 1959-60 the famous language revolt took place in Assam, and as a result Assamese became the official language of the State and Bengali also enjoyed the same status in the Cachar District of Barak Valley.

Mohendra Mohan Choudhury assumed the mantle of chief minister in 1970. The foundation of Bongaigaon Petro-Chemicals, Paper Mill at Jogighopa and Jute factory at Silghat in Nagaon were laid in his tenure. In 1972 Sarat Chandra Sinha came to power after Congress secured absolute majority. In 1974 the capital was finally shifted to Dispur in Guwahati.

The Assam Movement (1979-1985) was a popular movement against illegal immigrants in Assam. The movement, led by All Assam Students Union (AASU) and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP), developed a program of protests and demonstration to compel the Indian government to identify and expel illegal immigrants and protect and provide constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards to the indigenous Assamese people. The agitation programs were largely non-violent, but the Nellie massacre was a case of extreme violence. The agitation program ended in August 1985 following the Assam Accord, which was signed by leaders of AASU-AAGSP and the Government of India.

The Assam Accord (1985) was a Memorandum of Settlement (MoS) signed between representatives of the Government of India and the leaders of the Assam Movement in New Delhi on 15 August 1985. A six-year agitation demanding identification and deportation of illegal immigrants was launched by the All Assam Students' Union (AASU) in 1979. It culminated with the signing of the Assam Accord.

The accord brought an end to the Assam Agitation and paved the way for the leaders of the agitation to form a political party and form a government in the state of Assam soon after.

## Culture of Assam

Assam is the meeting ground of diverse cultures. The people of the enchanting state of Assam are an intermixture of various racial stocks such as Mongoloid, Indo-Burmese, Indo-Iranian and Aryan. The Assamese culture is a rich and exotic tapestry of all these races evolved through a long assimilative process. The natives of the state of Assam are known as "Asomiya" (Assamese), which is also the state language of Assam. The state has a large number of tribes, each unique in its tradition, culture, dress and exotic way of life.

Diverse tribes like Bodo, Kachari, Karbi, Miri, Mishimi, Rabha, etc co-exist in Assam; most tribes have their own languages though Assamese is the principal language of the state. A majority of the Assamese are Vaishnavas (a sect of Hinduism). The Vaishnavas do not believe in idol worshiping and perform "Naamkirtana", where the glory of Lord Vishnu is recited. The two important cultural and religious institutions that influence the cultural fabric of Assam: the "Satras", the site of religious and cultural practice which have been in existence for over 400 years and the "Naamghar", the house of prayers. Villagers generally associate on the basis of membership of a local Centre of devotional worship called "Naamghar". Villages are usually made up of families from a number of distinct castes.

In Assam, the caste system, although it exists, is not as prominent as in other parts of India. Other religions such as Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam etc. are also practiced in Assam. The state festival of Assam is the Bihu which is celebrated in three parts during a year with great pomp and grandeur by all Assamese, irrespective of caste, creed or religion. There are various elements which are being used to represent beliefs, feelings, pride, identity, etc and are considered as important symbolic elements in Assamese culture. The quintessential symbols are the Asomiya "Gamucha", "Jaapi", "TamulPaan" and "Xorai". Traditional attire worn by women called the "Mekhela Chador" and Assamese jewellery also form an integral part of the Assamese culture.

## Districts

The State of Assam is divided into 33 Administrative Districts. The districts are demarcated on the basis of the features such as the rivers, hills, forests, etc. The majority of the newly constituted districts are sub-divisions of the earlier districts. On 15 August 2015, five new districts were formed in addition to former 27 districts which are Biswanath, Charaideo, Hojai, South Salmara-Mankachar and West Karbi Anglong. On 27 June 2016, Majuli was also declared as a district. Karbi Anglong is the largest district of Assam with nearly 10,434 square kilometers of undivided area followed by Sonitpur with an area of 5324 square kilometers. Majuli carved out of the Northern parts of Jorhat is the first river island district of India.

The Districts of Assam are further placed under five Regional Divisions. The list of Divisions is as given below:

Division Name	Divisional Office	Districts
Central Assam	Nagaon	Dima Hasao, Hojai, East Karbi Anglong, West Karbi Anglong, Morigaon, and Nagaon
Upper Assam	Jorhat	Charaideo, Dhemaji, Dibrugarh, Golaghat, Jorhat, Lakhimpur, Majuli, Sivasagar and Tinsukia
Lower Assam	Guwahati	Baksa, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Chirang, Dhubri, Goalpara, Nalbari, Kamrup Metropolitan, Kamrup Rural, Kokrajhar, and South Salmara-Mankachar
Barak Valley	Silchar	Cachar, Hailakandi, and Karimganj
North Assam	Tezpur	Biswanath, Darrang, Sonitpur, and Udalguri

**Climate:**

The climate of Assam is typically 'Tropical Monsoon Rainforest Climate', with high levels of humidity and heavy rainfall. People here enjoy a moderate climate all throughout the year, with warm summers and mild winters. Spring (March–April) and autumn (September–October) are usually pleasant with moderate rainfall and temperature.

**Census and Socio-Economic Indicators:**

According to the census of India 2011, the population of Assam stands at 3,12,05,576 of which 1,59,39,443 are males and 1,52,66,133 females. The detail analysis of Population Census 2011 published by Govt. of India for Assam state reveal that population of Assam has increased by 17.07% in this decade compared (2001-2011) to past decade (1991-2001). Following table shows some important features of population of Assam:

Particulars	
Total Population [Census 2011]:	31205576
Male Population [Census 2011]:	15939443
Female Population [Census 2011]:	15266133
Rural Population [Census 2011]:	26807034
Urban Population [Census 2011]:	4398542
Sex Ratio (female per 1000 male) [Census 2011]:	958
Child Population (0-6 Years) [Census 2011]:	4638130
Literacy Rate (%) [Census 2011]:	72.19
Male Literacy Rate (%) [Census 2011]:	77.85
Female Literacy Rate (%) [Census 2011]:	66.27

### **Economy and Infrastructure:**

Assam's economy is rural and agricultural. Tea is cultivated in the hilly regions, and the state provides much of the tea grown in India. The valley of the Brahmaputra River is important for rice, the major food product of Assam. Other agricultural products are jute, sugarcane, cotton, oranges, and potatoes. Assam has abundant mineral resources. Coal, petroleum, limestone and natural gas are the principal mineral resources. It is also the largest producer of crude oil in India. Other minor minerals include magnetic quartzite, kaolin, iron ore, clay and feldspar etc. Oil India Limited (OIL) is the second largest hydrocarbon exploration and production Indian public sector company with its operational headquarters in Duliaganj, Assam, India under the administrative control of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Assam Silk denotes the three major types of indigenous wild silks produced in Assam—Golden Muga Silk, White Pat and warm Eri Silk. The Assam silk industry, now centered in Sualkuchi, is a labor-intensive industry. Assam enjoys global monopoly in terms of Muga Silk production. The state accounts for around 95 per cent of global Muga production. Moreover, Assam is the country's major Eri Silk producer.

#### **1.1 Brief history:**

The Mid-day-Meal Scheme is a school meal programme of the Government of India designed to improve the nutritional status of school going children nationwide. The programme supplies free lunches on working days for children in primary and upper primary classes in government, government aided, local body, Education Guarantee Scheme and alternate innovative education centres, *Madarsa* and *Maqtab*s supported under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and National Child Labour Project schools run by the Ministry of Labour. With a view to enhancing enrolment, retention and attendance and simultaneously improving nutritional levels among children, the “**National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education**” (NP-NSPE) was launched as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 15<sup>th</sup> August, 1995.

In the year 2001, Mid-Day-Meal Scheme became a cooked Mid-Day-Meal Scheme under which every child in every Government and Government aided primary school was to be served a prepared Mid-Day-Meal with a minimum content of 300 calories of energy and 8-12 gram protein per day for a minimum of 200 days. The Scheme was further extended in 2002 to cover not only children studying in Government, Government aided and local body schools, but also children studying in Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) and Alternative & Innovative Education (AIE) centres.

In October 2007, the Scheme was extended to cover children of upper primary classes (i.e. class VI to VIII) studying in 3,479 Educationally Backwards Blocks (EBBs) and the name of the Scheme was changed from ‘National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education’ to ‘**National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in Schools**’. The Scheme was further revised in April 2008 to extend the scheme to recognized as well as unrecognized Madarsas / Maqtabas supported under SSA.

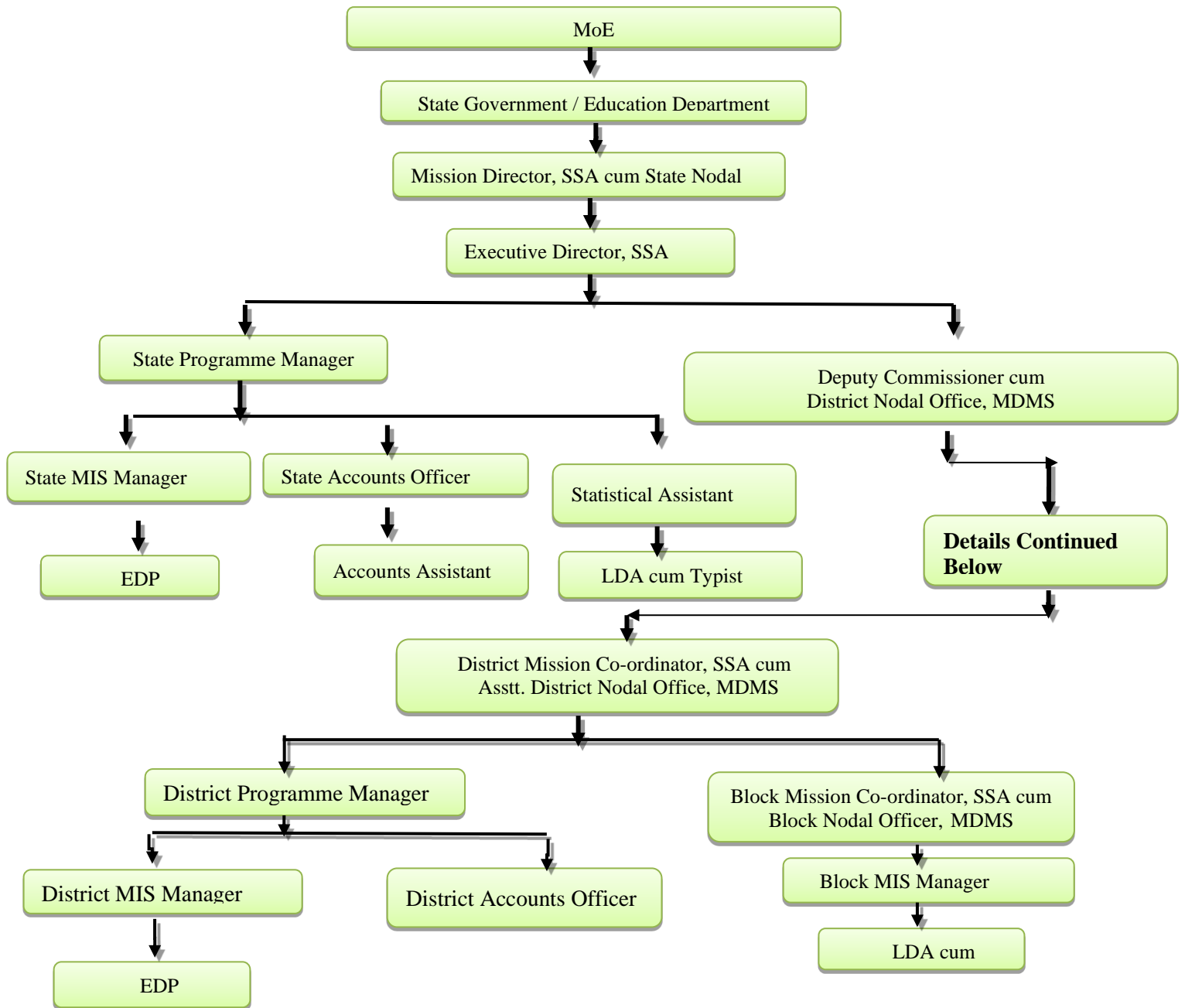
Mid-Day-Meal Programme has been started in the State of Assam with effect from January, 2005 covering children of Lower Primary stage under the supervision as well as managerial control of Directorate of Elementary, Education, Assam. However, children reading in Upper Primary classes

have been covered with effect from 2008-09 in Educationally Backward Blocks and all the children reading in Upper Primary classes (I-VIII) have been covered with effect from 2009-10.

The State Government transferred the implementation of Mid-Day-Meal Scheme to SSA, Assam w.e.f. 01-01-2014. The scheme of Mid-Day Meal has now been running under the direct supervision of SSA, Assam.

### 1.2 Management structure:

Following diagram depicts the management structure of Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Assam-



**Diagram-1: Management Structure**



### **1.3 Process of Plan Formulation at State and District level:**

The Annual Work Plan and Budget, 2021-22 has been formulated on the basis of data / information reflected in the district level plans submitted by each district with due approval of the District Nodal Officer (DNO), MDMS cum Deputy Commissioner/ Principal Secretary. Plan has been formulated based on both primary and secondary data. Sources of data are U-DISE, 2019-20, MDM MIS Web portal, primary data collected from field level and data available with the state and district offices.

Special attention has been paid to the process of plan formulation toward incorporating all the action taken points regarding commitment given to MoE, Govt. of India for implementation of the scheme under AWP&B, 2021-22, issues/suggestions raised by primary stakeholders, Govt. of Assam and community through different meetings as well as feedback received from the community members over phone. Also, decisions/directions of State Level Steering & Monitoring Committee and suggestions of District Level as well as Block Level Monitoring Committees were given due importance while preparing AWP & Budget 2021-22.

## **2. Description and assessment of the programme implemented in the current year (2020-21) and proposal for next year (2021-22) with reference to:**

### **2.1 Regularity and wholesomeness of Mid-Day Meals served to children; interruptions if any and the reasons therefore, problem areas for regular serving of meals and action taken to avoid Interruptions in future:**

The State Government has taken all needful measures to run Mid-Day Meal programme in the State with utmost care and attention. School Management Committees (SMCs) and Mothers Self Help Group are involved at school level for smooth functioning of the programme. District Administration, dedicated staff under MDM Scheme, Samagra Siksha Abhiyan, F.C.I. and Department of Elementary Education, Assam, along with D/o Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Assam are also playing a vital role for smooth running of the programme.

In 2020-21, Food Security Allowance was distributed to all the children as per entitlement against all working days during closure of schools due to COVID-19 pandemic. After reopening of schools in 2020-21, service of hot cooked meal to the children attending schools was resumed while still continuing the distribution of Food Security Allowance to the absentee eligible children. In 2020-21, Food Security Allowance was distributed to the children for 27 days in summer vacation as one-time special measure on account of COVID-19 pandemic.

### **2.2 System for cooking, serving and supervising mid-day meals in the schools:**

Mid-Day Meal is cooked at the schools only by the Cook-cum-Helpers engaged by the SMCs. Tarpaulin have been distributed to the schools for serving cooked Mid-Day Meal to the students. It has been made compulsory that any teacher and one SMC member/Mothers Group member must taste cooked Mid-Day Meal 30 minutes before serving the same to the students & the schools have to maintain a Food Tasting Register for this purpose.

### **2.3 Details about weekly Menu.**

### 2.3.1 Weekly Menu – Day wise

The SMCs have been directed to follow suggested weekly menu provided from State Nodal Office. The suggestive weekly menu is given below:

DAYS	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MENU	Rice, Dal, Leafy Vegetables	Khichidi, Soya/ Leafy Vegetables	Rice, Egg Curry/Local option/Leafy Vegetables	Rice, Dal, Mixed Vegetables	Rice, Dal, Leafy Vegetables	Khichidi/Pulao/ Local Options, Leafy Vegetables

In 2020-21 financial year, compulsory provision of one egg per week per child has been included under Mid-Day Meal to meet nutritional requirement of the children and boost immunity (soya for vegetarian children as a substitute of Egg).

**2.3.2** Additional Food items provided (fruits/milk/any other items), if any from State/UT resources. Frequency of their serving along with per unit cost per day:

No additional fund has been sanctioned for providing additional food items to the children in 2020-21. However, SMC has been providing locally available fruits to the children from time to time. An innovative has been taken in 2021-22 to provide Rice Cake ('Pitha'/'Laru' etc.) to the children along with their Mid-Day Meal utilizing the saved rice in the schools. Schools having excess stock of rice over and above one month buffer stock distributed Rice Cake to the children along with Food security Allowance during closure of schools due to COVID-19 pandemic.

**2.3.3** Usage of Double Fortified Salt and Fortified Edible Oil; their availability and constraints, if any, for procuring these items:

The school authority and SMCs have been directed to use double fortified salt for preparation of Mid-Day-Meal vide letter No. SSA/MDM/DFS/418/2014/2424 dtd. 01/06/2018. In fact, it is found to be a regular practice of the schools to use DFS in preparation of MDM.

**2.3.4** At what level menu is being decided / fixed:

There is a weekly suggested menu for serving Mid-Day-Meal in the schools prescribed by the State Nodal Office, MDMS. However, SMC has the flexibility to change the menu as per need and availability of local varieties.

**2.3.5** Provision of local variation in the menu, Inclusion of locally available ingredients/items in the menu as per the liking/taste of the children:

There are local options for 2 (two) days in the menu suggested by implementing agency, where SMC can incorporate local varieties as per need and local eating habit.

### **2.3.6 Time of serving meal:**

Usually the hot cooked Mid-Day Meal is served to the children in between 12.15 PM to 12.45 PM in school working days. But in 2020-21 Food Security Allowance was distributed to all the children as per entitlement against all working days during closure of schools due to COVID-19 pandemic. After reopening of schools in 2020-21, service of hot cooked meal to the children attending schools was resumed while still continuing the distribution of Food Security Allowance to the absentee eligible children.

## **2.4 Fund Flow Mechanism - System for release of funds (Central share and State share):**

### **2.4.1 Existing mechanism for release of funds up to school/ implementing agency levels:**

- Cooking cost is released to the SMC's bank accounts directly through RTGS from State Nodal Office.
- Monthly honorarium of Cook cum Helpers is released directly to their individual bank accounts through RTGS from State Nodal Office.
- Fund for hand washing soap and detergent powder is released directly to the SMC's bank accounts through RTGS from State Nodal Office.
- Fund for cost of food grains (rice) and transportation cost is released directly to the bank accounts of District Nodal Office (DNO), MDM through RTGS from State Nodal Office. District Nodal Office releases fund for cost of food grains (rice) and transportation cost to the FCI & GPSS respectively through direct bank transfer.
- Fund for kitchen devices is released to the SMCs' bank accounts directly through RTGS from State Nodal Office.
- Fund for construction of kitchen cum stores is released directly to the SMCs' bank accounts through direct bank transfer (RTGS/NEFT) from State Nodal Office.
- Funds for office contingency are released directly to the bank accounts of District Nodal Office (DNO) and Assistant District Nodal Office (ADNO), MDMS through RTGS from State Nodal Office.

### **2.4.2 Mode of release of funds at different levels:**

All funds like Cooking Cost, Honorarium to Cook cum Helpers, Cost of food grains, Transportation cost, Hand washing soap and detergent powder, fund for MME are released to the concerned levels through direct bank transfer in RTGS/NEFT mode from State Nodal Office.

**2.4.3 Dates when the fund were released to State Authority/Directorate/District/Block /Gram Panchayat and finally to the Cooking Agency/School:**

<b>Levels</b>	<b>Date of release</b>
Adhoc grants from State Government to Implementing Agency.	04.09.2021
Balance of 1 <sup>st</sup> instalment from State Government to Implementing Agency.	25.02.2021
Balance of 2 <sup>nd</sup> instalment from State Government to Implementing Agency.	Fund not yet released to implementing agency.
Implementing Agency to District for Cost of Food grains & Transportation Cost.	11.11.2020 02.03.2021
Implementing Agency to SMCs bank accounts for cooking cost.	22.09.2020 04.03.2021
Implementing Agency to personal bank accounts of Cook-cum-Helper for honorarium.	05.05.20, 30.06.20, 10.08.20, 14.09.20, 16.10.20, 22.10.20, 10.11.20, 29.12.20, 04.03.21, 16.03.21.
Implementing agency to Cooking Agency for cooking cost and honorarium to Cook cum Helpers.	22.09.2020, 31.10.2020, 19,11.2020, 31,03.2021

**2.4.4 Reasons for delay in release of funds at different levels:**

The State Nodal Office, MDMS, Assam released the fund immediately after received the fund from the State Govt. without any delay. However, delay in receipt of balance of 1<sup>st</sup> installment of Central Recurring Share as well as 2<sup>nd</sup> and final installment of Central Recurring Share caused delay in the release of funds at different levels.

**2.4.5 In case of delay in release of funds from State/ Districts, how the scheme has been implemented by schools/ implementing agencies:**

The scheme has been implemented uninterrupted and smoothly by concerned School Managing Committees with active support of the community. The School Management Committees procure ingredients from the market on credit in case of non-availability of funds. Also, School Management Committees uses other funds available in SMCs' bank accounts for time being and after receiving funds for payment of cooking cost, SMCs adjust the amount spent from other heads.

**2.4.6 Initiatives taken by the State for pre-positioning of funds with the implementing agencies in the beginning of the year, like creation of corpus funds, adoption of green channel scheme, advance release of State share etc.:**

Green Channel Scheme has been already adopted by the state in respect of Mid-Day Meal Scheme. The funds for payment of Cooking Cost are being released to the SMCs' MDMS bank accounts of concerned Schools directly since 2014-15 financial year and honorarium of Cook Cum Helpers are being released to the Cook Cum Helpers' personal bank accounts from SNO, MDMS, directly since April, 2016. The remaining funds viz. Cost of Food grains, Transportation Cost are being released to the MDMS bank account of the respective Deputy Commissioner & District Nodal Officer, MDMS as per requirement and accordingly DNO releases the fund to the FCI and GPSS/BSS.

## **2.5 Food grains management:**

### **2.5.1 Time lines for lifting of food grains from FCI Depot- District wise lifting calendar of food grains:**

The State Nodal Office, MDM issues allocation of rice on quarterly basis to the districts and subsequently, District Nodal Officers, MDMS, of the concerned districts allot rice to the schools and GPSS based on the school-wise actual requirement of rice during the quarter/month submitted by the District Mission Coordinators, SSA And Asstt. District Nodal Officers, MDMS, of the districts. The food grains are lifted by the GPSS from FCI depot to deliver the same to the schools as per allotment on monthly/bi-monthly/quarterly basis.

### **2.5.2 System for ensuring lifting of FAQ food grains (Joint inspections at the time of lifting etc.):**

To ensure lifting of at least FAQ food grains on time, the State Govt. had constituted a Joint Inspection Team at district level with the following members vide Govt. letter No. PMA/MDM-Cell.72/2011/Pt./39 dated 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2015

- (i) Representative from District Administration,
- (ii) Representative from Food & Civil Supply Department,
- (iii) One of the Officials of district MDM Cell,
- (iv) Representative from FCI.

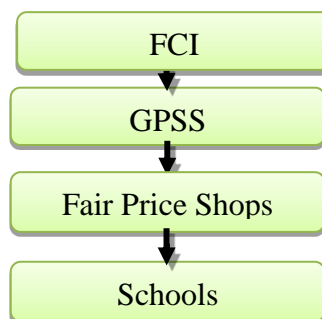
### **2.5.3 Is there any incident when FAQ food grain was not provided by FCI. If so, the action taken by the State/District to get such food grain replaced with FAQ food grain. How the food grain of FAQ was provided to implementing agencies till replacement of inferior quality of food grain from FCI was arranged:**

FCI delivered minimum Fair Average Quality (FAQ) rice in Mid-Day Meal Scheme. There is no instance of delivery of poor quality food grains recorded or no report in respect of supply of inferior quality of food grains to the schools is received by the State Nodal Office, MDMS, Assam, till date.

#### 2.5.4 System for transportation and distribution of food grains:

In Assam, Food & Civil Supply Department is the State Nodal Agency for transportation of food grains (rice). The Gaon Panchayat Samabai Samity (Lamps in case of Karbi Anglong & Dima Hasao districts) under Food & Civil Supply Department lifts the food grains from FCI godown to GPSS/Lamps storerooms and then delivers the same at school campus from GPSS godown directly or through Fair Price Shops.

The following diagram depicts the supply & distribution channel of Rice Procurement in the state to meet demand under MDMS-



*Diagram-2: Transportation & Distribution of Food Grains*

#### 2.5.5 Whether unspent balance of food grains with the schools is adjusted from the allocation of the respective implementing agencies (Schools/SHGs/Centralised Kitchens). Number of implementing agencies receiving food grains at doorstep level:

Steps have been taken to adjust the extra stock of rice over and above one month buffer stock available in any school, if any, in the next allocation of food grains. School-wise allocation of rice is prepared for next allotment after receiving school-wise report of availability of the extra stock of rice over and above one month buffer stock. Instruction has been issued to the district authorities to ensure proper utilization of food grains (rice) as per the requirement of schools.

#### 2.5.6 Storage facility at different levels in the State/District/Blocks/Implementing agencies after lifting of food grains from FCI depot:

Lifted rice is stored at Kitchen-cum-Store room of the school in most cases. In order to prevent damage to food items from insects, animals etc., a total of **58,449** steel containers (storage bin) were provided to schools with a capacity of 50 kg. (19,126 during 2013-14 & 2014-15; 37,216 during 2017-18 and 2,107 during 2018-19) from MME head for safe storage of rice and other ingredients at school level.

#### 2.5.7 System of fortification of food grains and their costing and logistics arrangement:

Food grains (rice) can be fortified by adding a micronutrient powder to the rice that adheres to the grains or spraying of the surface of ordinary rice grains in several layers with a vitamin and mineral mix to form a protective coating. Rice can also be extruded

and shaped into partially precooked grain-like structures resembling rice grains, which can then be blended with natural polished rice. Rice kernels can be fortified with several micronutrients, such as iron, folic acid and other B-complex vitamins, vitamin A and zinc.

Dhubri district has been selected for supply of fortified rice under Mid-Day Meal Scheme during 2021-22 in the pilot scheme of distribution of fortified rice under Mid-Day Meal Scheme and ICDS.

#### **2.5.8 Challenges faced and plan to overcome them:**

It is observed that payment to FCI against cost of food grains from districts takes time. In this regard, State has decided to make payment from State Nodal Office directly through e-transfer subject to certification of the bills by the DNOs with respect to lifting status. Accordingly, Stat Govt. has issued a notification in this regard. However, F.C.I. authority denied receiving payment of cost of food grains from State level and they preferred to receive the payment only from district offices i.e. DNOs as per GOI's guidelines.

Safe storage of food grains in schools of riverine areas is found to be a difficult task mainly in rainy season. In this regard, State had already provided 58,449 Storage Bin to schools for safe storage of rice and other ingredients at school level.

### **2.6 Payment of cost of food grains to FCI.**

#### **2.6.1 System for payment of cost of food grains to FCI; whether payments made at district level or State level:**

Presently, payment of cost of food grains to FCI is made through the concerned DNOs. In this regard, State releases fund to DNOs subject to the lifting status submitted by FCI to the State Nodal Office and accordingly, DNOs make payment as per the bills raised by FCI subject to verification of the bills by Officials of Food and Civil Supply Department.

#### **2.6.2 Status of pending bills of FCI of the previous year(s) and the reasons for pendency:**

Payment of FCI bills for cost of food grains up to 2019-20 is clear. Due to non-drawal of 2<sup>nd</sup> and final installment of Central Assistance from the State Finance Department till date because of MCC (Model Code of Conduct) on account of Assembly Election, 2021, payment of cost of food grains for 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of 2020-21 could not be made to the FCI till date.

#### **2.6.3 Timelines for liquidating the pending bills of previous year(s):**

Proposal for drawal of 2<sup>nd</sup> and final installment of Central Assistance have been already submitted to the Education Department, Govt. of Assam, immediately after MCC (Model Code of Conduct) for Assembly Election, 2021 was over. Payment of cost of food grains for 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of 2020-21 will be released immediately after drawal of fund.

**2.6.4 Whether meetings are held regularly in the last week of the month by the District Nodal Officers with FCI as per guidelines dated 10.02.2010 to resolve the issues relating to lifting, quality of food grains and payment of bills.**

The FCI officials of Regional Office are regularly contacted from State as well as District Offices regarding lifting of rice, bills raised by FCI, payment made to FCI etc. Meeting has been conducted with FCI officials from time to time by district authority to resolve the pending issues at field levels.

**2.6.5 Whether the District Nodal Officers are submitting the report of such meeting to State Head quarter by 7<sup>th</sup> of next month.**

District Nodal Officers submit minutes of the meetings to the SNO, MDMS from time to time.

**2.6.6 The process of reconciliation of payment with the concerned offices of FCI:**

The State Nodal Officer, MDM releases the cost of food grains to DNOs, MDM of concerned districts as per lifting status submitted by FCI to SNO, MDM. The Area Manager, FCI submits the bills to the Deputy Commissioner & DNO, MDM /Principal Secretary & DNO, MDM in case of Autonomous Council districts. The DNO, MDM has to make payment to FCI as per bills & lifting certificate submitted by FCI to DNO, MDM. In fact, reconciliation of payment is made as per the report received from DNOs and the FCI's statement collected in each quarter.

**2.6.7 Relevant issues regarding payment to FCI:**

Sometimes anomalies are observed in the statement submitted by FCI regarding outstanding payment against lifting position. Hence, reconciliation of payment is made as per the report received from DNOs and the FCI's statement collected in each month.

As per State Govt. commitment given in the PAB meeting for approval of AWP&B, 2015-16 for centrally payment of cost of food grains to FCI, the State Govt. had issued Notification for payment of cost of food grains from SNO, MDM directly through e-transfer, but the FCI authority denied to receive the payment of cost of food grains from SNO, MDM and they preferred to receive the payment of cost of food grains from districts.

**2.6.8 Whether there is any delay in payment of cost of food grains to FCI. If so, the steps taken to overcome the delay:**

District Nodal Officers has been trying to clear the all FCI bills as soon as the FCI authority submitted the bills to the DNOs. However, sometimes anomalies are observed in the statement submitted by FCI regarding outstanding payment against lifting position due to which some delay for payment is occurred.

**2.7 Cook-cum-helpers**

**2.7.1 Whether the State follows the norms prescribed by MHRD for the engagement of cook-cum-helpers or it has its own norms:**



The State has followed the norms/guidelines prescribed by MHRD, Govt. of India for engaging Cook-cum-Helpers. Cook-cum-Helpers are engaged by School Management Committee locally, preferably women of disadvantage communities. The engagement of cook cum helper has been approved in SMC meeting.

**2.7.2 In case, the State follows different norms, the details of norms followed may be indicated:**

Does not arise.

**2.7.3 Is there any difference in the number of cook-cum-helpers eligible for engagement as per norms and the CCH actually engaged:**

Cook cum Helpers have been engaged as per MHRD's norms and guideline.

**Eligibility norms:**

Enrollment	Numbers of Cook cum Helpers Entitled
Up-to 25	1
Up-to 100	2
Up-to 200	3
Up-to 300	4
Every addition up to 100 students	Extra 1 CCH

Cook-cum-Helpers are engaged by School Management Committee locally, preferably women of disadvantage communities. The engagement of cook cum helper has been approved in SMC meeting.

**2.7.4 System and mode of payment, of honorarium to cook-cum-helpers and implementing agencies viz. NGOs/SHGs/Trust/Centralized kitchens etc.**

The monthly honorariums to Cook cum Helpers have been released to their personal bank account through RTGS/NEFT mode w.e.f. April, 2016. The monthly honorariums to Cook cum Helpers engaged by Akshaya Patra Foundation in Centralized Kitchen & schools have also been released through RTGS.

**2.7.5 Whether the CCH were paid on monthly basis:**

Yes. The monthly honorariums to Cook cum Helpers have been paid to their individual bank accounts through RTGS from State Nodal Office w.e.f. April, 2016.

**2.7.6 Whether there was any instance regarding irregular payment of honorarium to cook-cum-helpers and reason there of Measures taken to rectify the problem:**

Cook-cum-Helpers receive their monthly honorariums through their individual bank accounts in time on regular basis.

**2.7.7 Rate of honorarium to cook-cum-helpers:**

An additional amount of honorarium to Cook-Cum-Helpers @Rs.500/- per month for 10 months during 2020-21 has been provided by the State Govt. Cook-cum-Helpers have been receiving additional honorarium @Rs.500/- per month along with Gol approved monthly honorarium @Rs.1000/- since April, 2020 for 10 months in a year.

**2.7.8 Number of cook-cum-helpers having bank accounts:**

Numbers of Cook cum Helpers	Numbers of Cook cum Helpers having bank Account.
1,18,998	1,18,998

**2.7.9 Number of cook-cum-helpers receiving honorarium through their bank accounts:**

Since April, 2016, all Cook cum Helpers have been receiving their monthly honorariums in their personal bank accounts through RTGS/NEFT mode.

**2.7.10 Provisions for health check-ups of Cook-cum-Helpers:**

There must be a provision for health check-up of Cook-cum-Helpers to detect whether any Cook-cum-Helper has any contaminated disease or any kind of skin disease and to take safety measures, if any, especially due to outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-21. Govt. of Assam issued Standard Operating Procedures for reopening of schools after closure of schools on account of COVID-19 pandemic vide notification no. ASE.01/2020/Pt.-II/117 Dated 28.12.2020 and made provision of thermal scanning of all staff of schools including Cook-cum-Helpers while entering school campus.

Under Rastriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (School Health Programme) is being implemented in schools where the Cook-cum-Helpers may be brought under the purview of these programme.

Different NGOs/Clubs organize Health Camp voluntarily in time to time, viz. LIONS Club, Rotary Club etc. These NGOs may be approached to organize Health Camps especially for Cook-cum-Helpers.

**2.7.11 Whether cook-cum-helpers are wearing head gears and gloves at the time of cooking of meals:**

Aprons and head gears have already been provided to all cook-cum-helpers during 2014-15 & 2018-19, which are used by the Cook-cum-Helpers during the time of cooking and serving of MDM. It has been made compulsory for the Cook-cum-Helpers to wear mask and gloves along with aprons and head gears in the school campus during COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-21 financial year.

**2.7.12 Modalities for apportionment of cook-cum-helpers engaged at school level and working at centralized kitchens, in case of schools being served through centralized kitchens:**

The Cook-Cum-Helpers (CCH) engaged by concerned SMCs in schools other than Centralized Kitchen. An additional amount of honorarium to Cook-Cum-Helpers @Rs.500/- per month for 10 months during 2020-21 has been provided by the State Govt. Cook-cum-Helpers have been receiving additional honorarium @Rs.500/- per month along with Gol approved monthly honorarium @Rs.1000/- since April, 2020 for 10 months in a year.

In case of schools under centralized Kitchen of Akshay Patra Foundation in Kamrup and Kamrup(M) districts, the CCHs receive of fifty percent of total due i.e. Rs.500/- out of Gol approved Rs.1000/- per month for 10 months in a financial year considering their workload and the rest fifty percent of total amount is being paid to the Cook-Cum-Helpers engaged in Centralized Kitchen. It is to be mentioned that cook cum helpers engaged in the schools covered by NGO have only distributed the cooked food only. However, Cook-cum-Helpers working in the allotted schools under Akshay Patra Foundation have been receiving additional honorarium @Rs.500/- per month along with 50% of Gol approved monthly honorarium @Rs.1000/- since April, 2020 for 10 months in a year.

Further, it may be stated that regarding discontinuation/release of Cook cum Helpers by School Managing Committees without any valid reason, the matter was discussed with Hon'ble Minister, Education, Assam on 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2016. The Hon'ble Minister, Education, Assam suggested that without prior approval of the appropriate authority and without any valid reason, no SMC can discontinue/release any Cook-cum-Helper from the cooking work under MDMS. Report of discontinuation/release as well as engagement of new Cook-cum-Helper is to be immediately intimated to the State Nodal Office with details of bank account etc. along with reason of discontinuance/release of Cook cum Helpers. A copy of the minutes is enclosed herewith for your kind reference. Accordingly, a letter was issued to all District Nodal Officers, MDMS and informed that henceforth, the SMCs will not directly discontinue/release the Cook cum Helpers from the cooking works of MDMS. If, any situation for discontinuation of Cook-cum-Helper from the cooking work of MDM arises, the SMC will have to discuss the matter in the meeting of SMC and send a proposal/resolution along with reasons in writing to the Deputy Commissioner & District Nodal Officer, MDMS/Principal Secretary & District Nodal Officer, MDMS of the concerned district through Block Mission Co-ordinator, SSA & Block Nodal Officer, MDMS/ Deputy Inspector of Schools/ District Mission Co-ordinator, SSA & Assistant District Nodal Officer, MDMS for necessary approval. Without prior approval of the appropriate authority, no SMC can discontinue/release any Cook-cum-Helper from the cooking work of MDM.

**2.7.13 Mechanisms adopted for the training of cook cum helpers. Total number of trained cook cum helpers engaged in the cooking of MDMs. Details of the training modules;**

**Number of Master Trainers available in the State; Number of trainings organized by the Master Trainers for training cook-cum-helpers.:**

No training programme for Cook-cum-Helpers was conducted in 2020-21 due to COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2018-19 training programme on different aspects of Mid-Day Meal Scheme and maintenance of food safety, health & hygiene at school level kitchen was imparted to all the Cook-cum-Helpers along with the Heads of the Institutions and SMC Presidents. Cluster Resource Centre Co-ordinators under SSA were imparted training in District level training programme for Resource Persons in all districts and then, Cluster Resource Centre Co-ordinators imparted the same training to all the Head of the Institutions, SMC Presidents and Cook-cum-Helpers of their respective clusters in Cluster Level Training.

Module used for training to Cook-cum-Helpers:

- Nutritional Aspect.
- Cooking and preparing different items having good nutritious value by using easily available cooking ingredients.
- Methods of cooking different items. As for example, cutting leafy vegetables after washing, but not washing leafy vegetables after cutting.
- Format of Advance Monthly Action Plan.
- Maintenance of Food Safety, Health & Hygiene at School Level Kitchen.
- Contaminated health related awareness.
- Process of making Cold Storage Facility at school level for preserving vegetables fresh.
- Hand washing activities by children before & after taking MDM.
- Tasting of cooked MDM by teacher, SMC member, Mothers Group member & Cook-cum-Helpers 30 minutes before serving the same to the students & keeping record in Food Tasting Register.
- MDMS Rules & guidelines.
- NFSA, 2015.

**2.7.14 Whether any steps have been taken to enroll cook-cum-helpers under any social security schemes i.e Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana etc. and number of cooks benefitted through the same:**

The matter has already been brought to the notice of Education (Elementary) Department, Govt. of Assam. Subsequently, a letter No. GLR(RC)3/2003/Pt.I/320 dtd. 27/02/2019 has been received from the Addl. Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Labour Welfare Department and directed State Nodal Officer, MDM Scheme, Assam to registration and enrolment of CCHs working under Mid-Day Meal Scheme for implementation of Pradhan Mantri Shram Jogi Mandhan Pension Yojana. Accordingly, all districts were directed to registration and enrolment of CCHs working under Mid-

## **2.8 Procurement and storage of cooking ingredients and condiments**

### **2.8.1 System for procuring good quality pulses, vegetables including leafy ones, salt, condiments, oil etc. and other commodities:**

The SMC of the schools procure the ingredients locally so that season wise available fresh vegetables including green leafy ones can be provided with the meals. Pulses, salt, condiments etc. are being purchased in local market. In Assam, special focus was given in setting up of School Nutrition Garden in each and every school covered under Mid-Day Meal Scheme. Most of the schools utilize fresh organic vegetables from the School Nutrition Gardens in the preparation of Mid-Day Meal.

### **2.8.2 Whether pulses are being procured from NAFED or otherwise:**

No. Pulses, salt, condiments etc. are being purchased by SMC in local market. But the state is currently exploring the possibilities of procuring pulses from NAFED.

### **2.8.3 Whether 'First-in:First-out' (FIFO) method has been adopted for using MDM ingredients such as pulses, oil/fats, Condiments salt etc. or not:**

First In First Out (FIFO) method has been adopted in usages of pulses, vegetables and condiments in the State.

### **2.8.4 Arrangements for safe storage of ingredients and condiments in kitchens:**

A good quality steel container has been provided to 53865 schools covered under Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Assam, in 2020-21 FY for safe storage of pulses and other ingredients in kitchen-cum-stores. Earlier prior to 2020-21 FY, a total of 58,449 Storage Bins (Steel Container) were provided to schools for storage of rice and ingredients & condiments safely in kitchen.

### **2.8.5 Steps taken to ensure implementation of guidelines dated 13.02.2015 on food safety and hygiene in school level kitchens under Mid-Day Meal Scheme:**

Guidelines on food safety and hygiene for school level kitchens under MDM Scheme were translated into **Assamese, Bengali and Bodo languages** and distributed to the schools.

MDM Rules, 2015 were translated into Assamese, Bengali and Bodo languages and printed in the said booklet. Also the Rules were printed in MDM Calendar, 2018 and provided to all schools.

Training has been imparted to Cook cum Helpers, President & Member Secretary and other members of the SMCs on food safety and hygiene for school level kitchens, MDM Rules, 2015 and Sampriti Bhojan (Tithi Bhojan).

IEC materials having total no. of 6 posters with pictorial presentation on different aspects of MDMS were provided to all the schools during 2019-20 FY. Contents are given hereunder-

Pages	Contents
1	Norms of Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Weekly Suggested Menu and ARMS (Automated Reporting & Management System)
2	School Nutrition Garden
3	Sampriti Bhojan (Tithi Bhojan)
4	Pictorial poster on Food Safety & Hygiene aspect of implementation of MDMS at schools
5	Pictorial poster on Health & Hygiene aspect to be followed in schools as per contents provided by NHM
6	Pictorial posters related to Disaster Mgmt Information provided by Assam State Disaster Management Authority

#### **2.8.6 Information regarding dissemination of the guidelines up-to school level:**

All guidelines/ booklets/ leaflets etc. provided by Central Govt. as well as State Govt. have been circulated amongst the schools and other stakeholders. Moreover, pictorial posters highlighting Do's & Don'ts in respect of Food Safety, Health & Hygiene, guidelines on Calorie Norms, School Nutrition Garden & Sampriti Bhojan and ARMS along with Weekly Suggested Menu have been provided to all schools during 2019-20 financial year.

### **2.9 Type of Fuel used for cooking of Mid-Day Meals –LPG, Smokeless Chulha, Fire wood etc.**

#### **2.9.1 Number of schools using LPG for cooking MDM**

At present, a total of 13,474 schools have been using LPG for cooking MDM at school level

#### **2.9.2 Steps taken by State to provide LPG as fuel in MDM in all schools:**

State Govt. has requested to provide LPG connection to remaining schools through convergence with line department. In this regard, letter has already been communicated to the State Govt.

**2.9.3 Expected date by which LPG would be provided in all schools:**

State Govt. will be requested to provide LPG connection at the earliest.

**2.10 Kitchen-cum-stores.**

**2.10.1 Procedure for construction of kitchen-cum-store:**

The construction of kitchen cum stores is being constructed by School Managing Committee (SMC) under the constant supervision of District Project Engineer and block level Junior Engineers of SSA. Funds have been released to the SMCs bank accounts in two installments. The 75% of the total unit cost has been released to the SMCs' bank accounts from State Nodal Office through RTGS mode as 1<sup>st</sup> installment. The 2<sup>nd</sup> installment i.e. 25% of the total unit cost has been released to the SMCs' bank accounts from State Nodal Office through RTGS mode after receiving UCs and photographs against 1<sup>st</sup> installment.

**2.10.2 Whether any standardized model of kitchen cum stores is used for construction:**

Construction of Kitchen-cum-store was done as per approved plan & estimate. The plan & estimate was prepared by construction agencies viz. HOUSEFED and Assam State Housing Board and the same was approved by State Nodal Officer, MDMS. Besides, PEB (Pre-Engineered Building) model/structure has been introduced for construction of Kitchen-cum-store and funds have been released to 12,222 schools, out of which 11,900 units have already been completed and 292 is under progress.

**2.10.3 Details of the construction agency and role of community in this work:**

The State Government had engaged two construction agencies namely, HOUSEFED and Assam State Housing Board for construction of Kitchen-cum-Stores under MDM programme. Accordingly, SNO, MDM had placed work order for construction of Kitchen-cum-Store one each in 44,615 schools. But they had completed only 39,451. In fact, construction was done in close co-ordination between agencies and the SMCs concerned.

Further, Govt. had decided to construct remaining Kitchen-cum-Stores through SMCs. Accordingly, fund has released to the SMCs bank accounts (12,103 schools @ unit cost of Rs.1,41,500/- and 119 schools @ unit cost of Rs.1,98,100/-). SMCs of the concerned schools monitor the construction works and its progress & completion in time. The District Project Engineer and block level Junior Engineers of SSA constantly supervise the construction works.

Remaining 5,122 schools @ unit cost of Rs.60,000/- have not been taken up yet due to insufficient unit cost.

**2.10.4 Kitchen cum stores constructed through convergence, if any:**

Kitchen-Cum-Stores of 39,451 schools have been constructed through two State Government agencies viz. HOUSEFED & Assam State Housing Board.

#### 2.10.5 Progress of construction of kitchen-cum-stores and target for the next year:

PAB-MDM Sanction kitchen cum store	Completed by Assam State Housing Board and Housefed	Completed by SMCs	Total completed	In progress at SMC level	Yet to start	Target for 2019-20
A	B	C	D=[B+C]	E	F	G
56,795	39,451	11761	51212	461	5,122	Nil

#### 2.10.6 The reasons for slow pace of construction of kitchen cum stores, if applicable:

In many cases, schools do not have sufficient land for construction of Kitchen-cum-store. In some cases, low-lying land and poor road communication are the reasons for slow pace in construction of Kitchen-cum-store.

In some areas like riverine areas/hill areas, non-available of road connectivity is the main barrier in progress of works. Manual labourers are used for carrying materials to the construction site. For this reason, cost of carrying materials goes higher than other areas.

During monsoon period in every year, a large area / some areas are affected with flood water & road communication is disrupted for a considerable period of time. Consequently, progress of works is suffered in such areas during monsoon period & it requires more completion time.

Dispute in SMCs is another major hindrance for progress of work in some cases.

Total 5,122 units @ Rs.60,000/- sanctioned during 2008-09 are found to be difficult to construct with the approved rate as per present SOR of PWD (B), Assam.

#### 2.10.7 How much interest has been earned on the unutilized central assistance lying in the bank account of the State/implementing agencies:

Rs. 21.51 Crore was lying in the bank as interest as on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020.

#### 2.10.8 Details of the kitchen cum stores constructed in convergence. Details of the agency engaged for the construction of these kitchen-cum-stores.

The State Government had engaged two construction agencies namely, HOUSEFED and Assam State Housing Board for construction of Kitchen-cum-Stores under MDM programme. Accordingly, SNO, MDM had placed work order for construction of Kitchen-cum-Store one each in 44,615 schools. But, they had completed only 39,451.

## 2.11 Kitchen Devices

#### 2.11.1 Procedure of procurement of kitchen devices from funds released under the Mid-Day Meal Programme:



The Govt. of India had released of Rs.663.85 lakh and Rs.1566.20 lakh during 2009-10 & 2010-11 for procurement of kitchen devices. The Director of Elementary Education cum the then SNO, MDMS Assam had invited tenders for purchase of steel plate and steel Glass during 2013. However, order of the work could not be executed due to pending court cases. After disposing off the matter by the court, fund for procurement of kitchen devices released to the SMCs of 44,601 schools in their bank accounts as per rate (Rs.5000/- per school) in 2014-15 to procure kitchen devices as per the guideline and specifications approved by Govt. of Assam.

#### **2.11.2 Status of procurement of kitchen devices:**

State Government had released an amount of Rs.883.30 lakh during 2007-08 for procurement of Kitchen devices, which has already been utilized. In fact, no fund has been received from other sources for procurement of Kitchen devices in schools.

The Govt. of India had released of Rs.663.85 lakh and Rs.1566.20 lakh during 2009-10 & 2010-11 for procurement of kitchen devices. Fund has been released to the SMCs of 44,601 schools in their bank accounts as per rate (Rs.5000/- per school) to procure kitchen devices as per the guideline and specifications approved by Govt. of Assam.

Moreover, Govt. of India has released an amount to Rs.569.70 lakh during 2016-17 for replacement of kitchen devices to 11,394 schools. Accordingly, all targeted schools have been provided LPG connection along with Gas Stove and Suraksha Rubber Hose with the help of IOC Ltd., Guwahati.

#### **2.11.3 Procurement of kitchen devices through convergence or community/CS:**

No kitchen devices have been procured through convergence or community/CSR.

#### **2.11.4 Availability of eating plates in the schools. Source of procurement of eating plates.**

Necessary steps have been taken to provide eating plates and drinking water glasses (steel) to the schools in phased manner from MME component. In 2020-21, eating plates and drinking water glasses were provided to the children of four districts were considered for providing viz. Baksa, Darrang, Jorhat and Majuli. In 2019-20, eating plates and drinking water glasses were provided to the schools of Hailakandi and Udalguri districts under MME component.

In 2021-22, proposal is submitted to provide eating plates and glasses to the schools of Kamrup, Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Charaideo, Dima Hasao & South Salmara Mankachar

### **2.12 Measures taken to rectify**

#### **2.12.1 Inter-district low and uneven utilization of food grains and cooking cost:**

Status of utilization of food grains and cooking costs are regularly monitored from district as well as State levels. Schools are encouraged to utilize food grains at the optimal quantity, so that no uneven utilization of food grains and cooking cost is seen.

**2.12.2 Intra-district mismatch in utilization of food grains and cooking cost:**

Intra district uneven/mismatch of utilization of food grains and cooking cost are observed due to several reasons like local bandh, flood etc. The District Nodal Officers have been asked to utilize cooking cost in proportionate of food grains and as per norms. The schools are requested to make up the left-out days taking special measures.

**2.12.3 Mismatch of data reported through various sources (QPR, AWP&B, MIS etc):**

There is no significant mismatch of data reported through QPR and AWP & B. However, it has been observed that the computer operators make plenty of errors while entering the data into MIS portal. Checking at the entry level has considerably reduced such error in the current year data. Of course, few mismatches are still observed which need to be taken care of in future while entering the data in MIS web portal.

**2.13 Quality of food**

**2.13.1 System of Tasting of food by teachers/community. Maintenance of tasting register at school level:**

Cooked food is tasted by teachers / cook-cum-helper / SMC members/Mothers Group members on regular basis. The schools' authority has also been requested to maintain tasting register at school level.

<b>FOOD TASTING REGISTER</b>							
							Month...../20....
Date	SMC Member/Mothers Group (on a Rotation Basis)						Signature of the Teacher who Tasted
	Name of the SMC member/ Mother Group member	Designation	Time of Tasting	Menu	Remarks	Signature	

**2.13.2 Maintenance of roster of parents, community for the presence of at least two parents in the school on each day at the time of serving and tasting of Mid-Day meal:**

Cooked food is tasted by teachers / cook-cum-helper(s) / SMC members / parents / community on regular basis and records of such tasting are maintained in Food Tasting Register at school level.

**2.13.3 Testing of food sample by any recognized labs for prescribed nutrients and presence of contaminants such as microbe's e-coli. Mechanism to check the temperature of the cooked MDM:**

In 2020-21 financial year, Food Security Allowance in the form of rice and cooking cost (or its equivalent pulses, vegetables and other ingredients) in lieu of hot cooked Mid-Day Meal was distributed to the children in most of the days due COVID-19 pandemic. Hence, testing of food samples was not done in 2020-21 FY.

**2.13.4 Engagement of / recognized labs for the testing of Meals:**

The Akshaya Patra Foundation, Guwahati (NGO) is engaged for supply of hot cooked Mid-Day Meal in the allotted schools of Kamrup and Kamrup (M) districts. The NGO has an ISO certified kitchen and dispatch meals for testing purpose at NABL Lab, Kolkata & Public Health Lab, Assam at regular interval. In 2020-21 financial year, Food Security Allowance in the form of rice and cooking cost (or its equivalent pulses, vegetables and other ingredients) in lieu of hot cooked Mid-Day Meal was distributed to the children in most of the days due COVID-19 pandemic. Hence, testing of food samples was not done in 2020-21 FY.

**2.13.5 Details of protocol for testing of Meals, frequency of lifting and testing of samples:**

In 2020-21 financial year, Food Security Allowance in the form of rice and cooking cost (or its equivalent pulses, vegetables and other ingredients) in lieu of hot cooked Mid-Day Meal was distributed to the children in most of the days due COVID-19 pandemic. Hence, only 11 numbers of samples from the Centralized Kitchen under Akshay Patra Foundation were tested in 2020-21 FY.

**2.13.6 Details of samples taken for testing and the results thereof:**

In 2020-21 financial year, Food Security Allowance in the form of rice and cooking cost (or its equivalent pulses, vegetables and other ingredients) in lieu of hot cooked Mid-Day Meal was distributed to the children in most of the days due COVID-19 pandemic. Hence, testing of food samples was not done in 2020-21 FY.

**2.13.7 Steps taken to ensure implementation of guidelines issued with regard to quality of food:**

State has taken an initiative to develop an AI (Artificial Intelligence) based application to ensure proper implementation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme at school level, to monitor service of Mid-Day Meal in the schools on real time basis, to track the items served and quality of food, to manage Cook-cum-Helpers, to allot rice to the schools based on the availability of extra rice over & above one month buffer stock/shortage of rice at school level, to record the produce from School Nutrition Gardens, to get the information related to school-wise availability of stock of rice and fund and to maintain different registers under Mid-Day Meal Scheme digitally at school level, to monitor

implementation of School Health Programme etc. Application is aimed at providing complete digital solution to monitor implementation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme in the schools properly.

A necessary guideline has been issued to all concerned including school authority to ensure implementation of guidelines with regard to maintain quality of food. State will also take necessary steps to test cooked MDM in reputed laboratory to ascertain the quality of food.

Guidelines on food safety and hygiene for school level kitchens under MDM Scheme were translated into **Assamese, Bengali and Bodo languages** and distributed to the schools.

MDM Rules, 2015 were translated into Assamese, Bengali and Bodo languages and printed in the said booklet. Also, the Rules were printed in MDM Calendar, 2018 and provided to all schools.

Training has been imparted to Cook cum Helpers, President & Member Secretary and other members of the SMCs on food safety and hygiene for school level kitchens, MDM Rules, 2015 and Sampriti Bhojan (Tithi Bhojan).

IEC materials having total no. of 6 posters with pictorial presentation on different aspects of MDMS have been provided to all the schools during 2019-20 FY with contents as stated above in the Pt. No. 2.8.5.

Moreover, cooked food is tasted by teachers / cook-cum-helper / SMC members/Mothers Group members on regular basis. The Schools authority has also been requested to maintain Food Tasting Register at school level.

## **2.14 Involvement of NGOs / Trusts / Temples / Gurudwara / Jails etc.**

### **2.14.1 Modalities for engagement of NGOs/ Trusts/ Temples / Gurudwara / Jails etc. for serving of MDM through centralized kitchen:**

The Akshaya Patra Foundation, a public charitable trust having its Head Office at Bangalore has been engaged in providing Mid-Day Meal in Kamrup (Rural) and Kamrup (Metro) since February, 2010. Currently, it is providing Mid-Day Meal to 609 schools (Kamrup– 433 and Kamrup (Metro)- 176 schools) to 39,479 children (Kamrup– 22,578 and Kamrup (Metro)- 16,901) through its state of art ISO certified kitchen situated at Amingaon.

Mid-Day-Meal Guideline, 2006 and Mid-Day-Meal Rules, 2015 provides for setting up of **Centralized Kitchen** for a cluster of schools in urban areas where there is a space constraint for construction of kitchens in individual school. The Mid-Day-Meal

(Amendment) Rules, 2017 amending the sub-rule (2) of rule 5 of the Mid-Day Meal Rules, 2015 has been notified vide G.S.R. 471 (E) dated 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 as below:

*“(2) Every school shall have the facility for cooking meal in hygienic manner and the schools in urban areas and in identified rural areas which have good road connectivity and viable cluster of schools, for the purpose of leveraging efficiency gains, may use the facility of centralized kitchens for cooking meals wherever required in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Central Government and the meal shall be served to children at respective school only.”*

Hon’ble Finance Minister, Govt. of Assam had announced in the Budget Speech during 2016-17 (54 & 55 pages) that “Mid-Day Meal is one of the most successful programme across the country. This has evidently helped not only the retention level of the students of schools but also increasing their nutrition status. But the challenge is to provide cooked, hygienic and healthy meal in every school remains a challenge. The successful experiment in providing cooked and hygienic meal in some Blocks in Kamrup district by involving "Akshay Patra", a reputed International NGO by centralized cooking at the Block level gives a positive outlook. The Education Department will come up with detailed guidelines for implementing mid-day meal scheme through centralized kitchens in a phased manner.”

Under such circumstances, an Expression of Interest (EOI) was floated for supply of Mid-Day Meal in elementary schools in Assam through Centralized Kitchen in the month of June, 2017. A total of 20 (twenty) NGOs/VOs had submitted EOI for supply of MDM in elementary schools in Assam. EOI was evaluated on the basis criteria mentioned in the EOI.

A State level committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of the Commissioner & Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Elementary Education Department for selection as well as for empanelment of NGOs/VOs.

The State Level Committee decided to empanel 15 (fifteen) NGOs/VOs out of 20 NGOs/VOs for allotment of districts for setting up of Centralized Kitchen in the urban area preferably in the district head quarter.

Based on the above, work order was issued for all 28 nos of districts in 2019-20 financial year. Out of 28 districts, designated NGOs surrendered the work for two districts viz. Majuli & Karbi Anglong.

The lists of the schools to be covered under NGOs were submitted by the concerned Deputy Commissioners after verification at district level. Deputy Commissioners were requested to conduct a trial run before commencement of Centralized Kitchen in the districts. Schools located within 25 KM radius of the Centralized Kitchen having good road connectivity were only considered for inclusion under Centralized Kitchen for supply of Mid-Day Meal.

After observing all the formalities, Centralized Kitchens were operationalized in 17 districts by 13 NGOs w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> Nov, 2019.

There were reports of continuing protests and agitation by a section of the Cook-cum-Helpers against engagement of NGOs to run Centralized Kitchens in the 17 districts of Assam and also there were reports in the print and electronic media regarding supply of poor quality of Mid-Day Meal to schools.

Accordingly, the Govt. of Assam put on hold the operationalization of Centralized Kitchen established by these NGOs temporarily until further orders w.e.f. 11/11/19.

**2.14.2 Whether NGOs / Trusts/ Temples / Gurudwara / Jails etc. are serving meal in rural areas:**

No. The Akshaya Patra Foundation, Guwahati (NGO) is serving meals in Kamrup (Rural) and Kamrup (M) districts in urban areas.

**2.14.3 Maximum distance and time taken for delivery of food from centralized kitchen to schools:**

The Akshaya Patra Foundation, Guwahati (NGO) is covering maximum 20 km distance from the centralized kitchen and it takes around 2 hrs from the kitchen to schools. It is ensured that it reaches before lunch time following ISO norms of cooked to consumption.

**2.14.4 Measures taken to ensure delivery of hot cooked meals to schools:**

The Akshaya Patra Foundation, Guwahati (NGO) is cooking meals in ISO certified kitchen strictly following ISO norms and pack food in SS 304 grade vessels and send through customized insulated Delivery van which keep food warm at consumption time.

**2.14.5 Responsibility of receiving cooked meals at the schools from the centralized kitchen:**

Cooked meals are received by Cook-Cum-helper & SMCs of the concerned schools from the Akshaya Patra Foundation, Guwahati (NGO) carried through customized insulated vehicles. The CCHs of the schools covered under NGO then distributed the meal among the children and washes utensils after delivery of food.

**2.14.6 Whether sealed/insulated containers are used for supply of meals to schools:**

Yes, the Akshaya Patra Foundation is providing meals through S.S. 304 grade Vessels which are completely air tight and food self-life inside the vessels is five hrs and temperature remains near about 60<sup>o</sup>c to 65<sup>o</sup>c at the time of consumption (lunch time).

**2.14.7 Tentative time of delivery of meals at schools from centralized kitchen:**

Generally, it takes two hours from centralized kitchen. Meals are served within 12 noon of all schools covered under centralized kitchen.

**2.14.8 Availability of weighing machines for weighing the cooked MDM at school level prepared at centralized kitchen:**

No weighing machine is available at school level. However, in centralized kitchen the same is available and is being using in regard to cooked MDM.

**2.14.9 Testing of food samples at centralized kitchens:**

The Akshaya Patra Foundation, Guwahati (NGO), being an ISO certified kitchen, follows all the safety & quality measures and norms. At a regular interval, Food Inspector from Office of Joint Director of Health services visits the kitchen. After cooking, food is being tested by three senior category officers including Quality Officer of the foundation. The Foundation sends Meals for testing purpose at National Collateral Management Service Ltd. & Fare Labs Pvt. Ltd. at regular interval.

**2.14.10 Whether NGOs / Trusts/ Temples / Gurudwara / Jails etc. is receiving grant from other organizations for the mid-day meal. If so, the details thereof:**

Since, cost of Mid-Day Meal provided by the Akshaya Patra Foundation, Guwahati (NGO) is approx. Rs.8 per meal. The source of fund of organization is:

- 1) Grant: Food Grains & Cooking Cost as per approved rates from Govt.
- 2) Donation.

**2.15 Systems to ensure transparency and accountability in all aspects of programme implementation,**

**2.15.1 Display of logo, entitlement of children and other information at a prominent visible place in school:**

MDM Logo has been displayed in the front veranda of the schools. The entitlement of children and other information have been printed in MDMS posters provided to all the schools and offices for display at prominent places. The same have been displayed in hoarding also. Hoardings are installed in the office campus of Deputy Commissioners, Inspector of Schools, DEEOs, BEEOs. Further, State Govt. has decided to provide White Board during 2015-16 to all schools to reflect MDMs entitlement of children in respect of norms of cooking cost, rice, honorarium to cook cum helpers, stock of food grains, medical plan and other important information.

During 2019-20, MDM Logo has been provided to all the schools of seven aspirational districts of Assam from MME component.

**2.15.2 Dissemination of information through MDM website:**

All the information in respect of Mid-Day Meal Scheme is uploaded in MDM website as per specific format. During 2018-19, a separate MDM Website has been created for uploading school-wise all relevant information on MDMS.

In 2020-21, an initiative has been taken to develop an AI (Artificial Intelligence) based application to ensure proper implementation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme, at school level, to

monitor service of Mid-Day Meal in the schools on real time basis, to track the items served and quality of food, to record the produce from School Nutrition Gardens, to get the information related to school-wise availability of stock of rice and fund and to maintain different registers under Mid-Day Meal Scheme digitally at school level etc.

**2.15.3 Provisions for community monitoring at school level i.e. Mother Roaster, Inspection register:**

All Schools have maintained Inspection Register to note down the observations/comments by the inspecting officials. Also, SMCs, Mother Groups regularly monitor the functioning of MDMS and provide concurrent support to the schools in this regard. Moreover, it has been made compulsory that any teacher and one SMC member/Mothers Group member must taste cooked Mid-Day Meal 30 minutes before serving the same to the students & the schools have to maintain a Food Tasting Register for this purpose.

In 2020-21 FY, an initiative has been taken to develop an AI (Artificial Intelligence) based application where schools can maintain records digitally in the registers viz Food Grains Register, Daily Performance Record Register, Accounts Maintenance Register and Food Tasting Register.

**2.15.4 Tasting of meals by community members:**

It has been made compulsory that one SMC member/Mothers Group member must taste cooked Mid-Day Meal along with a teacher 30 minutes before serving the same to the students & the schools have to maintain a Food Tasting Register for this purpose.

**2.15.5 Conducting Social Audit**

**2.15.5.1 Whether Social Audit has been carried out or not:**

Yes, Social Audit of MDMS has been carried out in all the Govt/provincialized LP/UP/MV schools in convergence with the Samagra Siksha Abhiyan, Assam.

**2.15.5.2 If no, in 2.15.5.1, reasons thereof:**

Does not arise.

**2.15.5.3 Details of action taken by the State on the findings of Social Audit:**

Reports of Social Audit are yet to be received. Necessary action will be taken after receiving social audit reports.

**2.15.5.4 Impact of social audit in the schools:**

State conducted Social Audit for SSA & MDMS with a view to ensure transparency, accountability & participation of community in school development activities. Social Audit manual was developed in the State with the inputs of Resource Person, Teachers, SMCs and provided to the selected SMCs for conducting Social Audit. Social Audit teams were constituted with the representative of PRIs, local Retired Teacher, NGOs, local educated Youth, Mothers Group.



### **2.15.5.5 Action plan for Social Audit during 2021-22:**

Social Audit will be conducted in all the Govt. Provincialized LP/UP/MV schools of the state in 2021-22. State has taken an initiative in 2020-21 FY to develop a software application for conducting social audit affectively in the state in convergence with SSA, Assam.

## **2.16 Capacity building and training for different stakeholders**

### **2.16.1 Details of the training programme conducted for State level officials, SMC members, school teachers and others stakeholders:**

In 2020-21 FY, no training was organized due to COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2019-20 FY, State Level Induction Training programme was conducted where newly engaged district level MDMS officials were participants. All important aspects of Mid-Day Meal Scheme were covered in the training programme.

In 2018-19 training programme on different aspects of Mid-Day Meal Scheme and maintenance of food safety, health & hygiene at school level kitchen was imparted to all the Head of the Institutions, SMC Presidents and Cook-cum-Helpers. Cluster Resource Centre Co-ordinators under SSA were imparted training in District level training programme for Resource Persons in all districts and then, Cluster Resource Centre Co-ordinators imparted the same training to all the Head of the Institutions, SMC Presidents and Cook-cum-Helpers of their respective clusters in Cluster Level Training.

In the training of SMCs under SSA, the Mid-Day-Meal has been taken a major subject of discussion with the SMC members. Apart from SMC's role and responsibilities in MDMS, the subjects like books of accounts, hygiene and safe drinking water, emergency plan, kitchen garden, Sampriti Bhojan, food safety & hygiene etc. were covered in the training module.

### **2.16.2 Details about Modules used for training, Master Trainers, Venues etc.**

No training programme was organized in 2020-21 financial year due to COVID-19 pandemic.

### **2.16.3 Targets for the next year:**

Training cum Orientation Programme for all SMC Presidents, Head of the Institutions and one Cook-cum-Helper from each school will be organized in 2021-22 financial year on different aspects of MDMS, specifically on the newly developed AI based application.

## **2.17 Management Information System at School, Block, District and State level and its details.**

### **2.17.1 Procedure followed for data entry into MDM-MIS Web portal:**

The School Monthly Data Capture Format (MDCF) is the main source of information for monthly data entry into MDM-MIS portal. The Head Teacher/Head Masters/Principals were instructed to submit the duly filled up School Monthly Data Capture Format

(MDCF) of every month on or before 5<sup>th</sup> day of its following month or along with salary bills whichever is earlier to the respective Education Block Offices. The Block level Data Entry Operators make data entry into the MDM-MIS portal. The Govt. of India issued instruction vide letter No. F.No.12-1/2010-MDM 2-1 Dated 12<sup>th</sup> Oct., 2015 to involve Data Entry Operators engaged under SSA in the work of data entry into MIS Web Portal. Accordingly, necessary instruction has been issued to engage EPDs of Block offices in data entry works. On the other hand, EDP has been engaged on man-days basis through outsourcing for online data entry in the MDMS MIS Web Portal whenever required. Data entry is monitored from the State Nodal Office of MDMS, Assam and all logistic supports are given whenever and whatever required.

**2.17.2 Level (State/ District/ Block/ School) at which data entry is made:**

School wise format is collected by CRCCs/Block Accountants under SSA / Sub-Inspector of Schools and data entry is done at Block level mainly on man-days basis or by block level EDPs under SSA.

**2.17.3 Availability of manpower for web based MIS:**

MIS data entry is done by the block level SSA EDPs and through outsourcing manpower on man-days basis for urgent completion of data entry.

**2.17.4 Mechanism for ensuring timely data entry and quality of data:**

The Head Teacher/Head Masters/Principals were instructed to submit the duly filled up School Monthly Data Capture Format (MDCF) of every month on or before 5<sup>th</sup> day of its following month or along with salary bills whichever is earlier to the respective Education Block Offices. The block level Data Entry Operators are to complete data entry into the MDM-MIS portal by 10<sup>th</sup> working day of the month.

**2.17.5 Whether MIS data is being used for monitoring purpose and details thereof:**

MIS data is being used for planning process for preparation of Annual Work Plan & Budget every year. It is also a part of the monitoring system to ensure service of Mid-Day Meal to the children in all the eligible schools.

**2.18 Automated Monitoring System (AMS) at School, Block, District and State level and its details.**

**2.18.1 Status of implementation of AMS:**

Automated Reporting & Monitoring System (MDM-ARMS) for collection of daily meal served data from schools for real time monitoring of MDMS was rolled out in the State Assam in the month of October, 2017. At present, total nos. of 51337 schools are ported in ARMS Web Portal. At present, the no. of schools that are reporting Daily Data in ARMS is 8086 out of 51337 which is 16% of total ported schools [as on 24.02.2021]. Many schools from almost all the districts reported that daily data could not be reported in ARMS through SMC, instead a message 'Service Expired' is received in return while sending daily report through SMS every time. Moreover, it is reported that in many cases,

Jio users cannot send report in ARMS. However, all possible efforts are being given to settle the issues in order to ensure reporting in ARMS by 100% schools.

**2.18.2 Mode of collection of data under AMS (SMS/IVRS/Mobile App/Web enabled):**

Modes of data reporting in ARMS are SMS, Web mode & Mobile Application.

**2.18.3 Tentative unit cost for collection of data:**

NICSI has not submitted any pre-receipted bill since 2019-20.

**2.18.4 Mechanism for ensuring timely submission of information by schools:**

The Daily data reporting time in ARMS in Assam is fixed from 10:10 to 5:00 PM. District-level, block-level and cluster-level stakeholders in the state are instructed to ensure timely submission of daily data by schools. Moreover, state publishes and shares status of district-wise reporting in ARMS of previous day on regular basis in official WhatsApp group to ensure reporting in ARMS by 100% schools.

**2.18.5 Whether the information under AMS is got validated:**

The daily data reported in ARMS by the respondents are successfully delivered into the central server and the respondents are getting the acknowledgement against the successful delivery of daily data in their registered mobile phone. However, the issues faced by the respondents regarding non-delivery of MDM data are directly pursued with the NIC-HP to resolve the same immediately.

**2.18.6 Whether AMS data is being used for monitoring purpose and details thereof:**

ARMS is designed to monitor the implementation of the scheme at school level on daily as well as monthly basis. The present status of availability of fund and food grains for the non-serving MDM schools are reflected in the ARMS web portal and accordingly the stakeholders at different levels are engaged for remedial measures.

**2.18.7 In case, AMS has not been rolled out, the reasons therefore may be indicated along with the time lines by which it would be rolled out:**

Does not arise.

**2.19 Details of Evaluation studies conducted by State/UT and summary of its findings:**

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), North Eastern Regional Centre, Guwahati, was assigned to conduct third party external evaluation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme in 7 aspirational districts of Assam viz. Barpeta, Baksa, Darrang, Dhubri, Goalpara, Hailakandi and Udalguri in 2019-20 financial year and the organization was supposed to complete the study and submit the report by 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2020. But on account of sudden outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic in the nation in the month of March, 2020, TERI could not complete the study by March, 2020. However, TERI completed the conduct third party external evaluation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme

in 6 aspirational districts of Assam viz. Barpeta, Baksa, Darrang, Dhubri, Goalpara and Udalguri instead of 7 districts and submitted its final report on December, 2020.

As per conclusion of the study report submitted by TERI, *“This evaluation study was conducted with the aim of understanding and establishing the need, and impact of implementation of the mid-day meal programme in the schools. The evaluation study was conducted by The Energy and Resources Institute in 324 schools from 21 blocks of 6 districts of Assam. The Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) is reflected as a means of providing nutrition and improving health of school children. MDM pursues to deliver for each school going child roughly a third of the daily nutrient requirement in the form of a hot fresh cooked meal. The scheme promotes to improve enrolment, school attendance and retention. It has been researched that a hungry child is a poor learner, lacking in concentration. In rural areas or socio-economically lower communities, especially in difficult geographical locations like char areas in Assam, children tend to suffer from low retention of nutrients leading to low attendance in schools. Children with empty stomach due to poor financial condition of the families or for girl child with excessive responsibility of house can lead to low learning process in school and hence MDM is called as a Short-Term effect to combat classroom hunger and promote better learning. Mid-Day Meal plays an important role to show equity in education system against gender discrimination, class differences, caste differences or religious differences. It is also instrumental in bringing out better social integration. It especially helps in reducing the gender gap in education system by boosting female enrolment, attendance and also their health. Through the evaluation of MDMS, it is observed that other than the social equalities, MDM has also triggered development of the entire school system by keeping records of work done, better teaching facilities, community involvement and the school infrastructure. The above analysis proved that MDM has facilitated better hygiene and sanitation in school and spread the health awareness among children and their parents. The implementation of MDM in schools of Assam have shown emerging improvement in water facility, in case of drinking water, running water facility in toilets and provision of water tanks along with tube wells and hand pumps. Even though implementation of MDM in Assam had taken a long time, yet its effects are prominent, still with a huge scope of improvement. The fund flow system could be more regular and the higher authority monitoring can be firmer. This can help in improving the performances related to MDM. The outcome of the study clearly establishes the positive impact of the mid-day programme. Classroom hunger was addressed significantly, with attendance receiving a boost. The recommended nutritional requirements were being fulfilled as per the situational appropriateness maintaining the hygienic conditions to some extent. Both teachers and children confirmed to sharing the mid-day meal together, irrespective of caste, religion and economic status. This trend was observed across all the schools in the 6 districts signifying the importance of universalisation of the meal. It was realised that there is always a room for improvement, and hence taking this study as a reference, it is expected that the effort will be continued for the betterment of the processes and services in implementing the mid-day meal scheme in the schools.”*

The full report of the third party external evaluation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme in 6 aspirational districts of Assam viz. Barpeta, Baksa, Darrang, Dhubri, Goalpara and Udalguri submitted by TERI is given in Annexure-I.

**2.20 Case Studies / Write up on best/ innovative practices followed in the State along with some high-resolution photographs of these best / innovative practices:**

**A. Distribution of Food Security Allowance during COVID-19 Pandemic:**

In 2020-21 FY, Food Security Allowance (rice and cooking cost or its equivalent pulses, vegetables, oil etc.) was provided to all the eligible children through doorstep delivery by visiting their houses during closure of schools on account of COVID-19 pandemic and summer vacation. The schools distributed Food Security Allowance to the eligible children during closure of schools due to COVID-19 pandemic and also continued distribution of Food Security Allowance to the absentee children after reopening of schools in 2020-21. Details of methodology and mechanism are given at Pt. No. 2.39.





**B. Artificial Intelligence Based Application on Mid-Day Meal Scheme:**

State has taken an initiative to develop an AI (Artificial Intelligence) based application to ensure proper implementation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme at school level, to monitor service of Mid-Day Meal in the schools on real time basis, to track the items served and quality of food, to manage Cook-cum-Helpers, to allot rice to the schools based on the availability of extra rice over & above one month buffer stock/shortage of rice at school level, to record the produce from School Nutrition Gardens, to get the information related to school-wise availability of stock of rice and fund and to maintain different registers under Mid-Day Meal Scheme digitally at school level, to

monitor implementation of School Health Programme etc. Application is aimed at providing complete digital solution to monitor implementation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme in the schools properly.

**C. Posters with pictorial presentation on different aspects of Mid-Day Meal Scheme:**

IEC materials having total no. of 6 posters with pictorial presentation on different aspects of Mid-Day Meal Scheme have been provided to all the schools and offices during 2019-20 FY with contents as given hereunder-

<b>Pages</b>	<b>Contents</b>
1	Norms of Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Weekly Suggested Menu and ARMS
2	School Nutrition Garden
3	Sampriti Bhojan (Tithi Bhojan)
4	Pictorial poster on Food Safety & Hygiene aspect of implementation of MDMS at schools
5	Pictorial poster on Health & Hygiene aspect to be followed in schools as per contents provided by NHM
6	Pictorial posters related to Disaster Mgmt Information provided by Assam State Disaster Management Authority







# মধ্যাহ্ন ভোজন আঁচনি, অসম



## মধ্যাহ্ন ভোজন আঁচনিৰ অন্তৰ্গত পাচলি বাগিছা

বিদ্যালয়ত পাচলি বাগিছা স্থাপনৰ শিশুক উপযুক্ত জীৱনীশৈলীৰ আয়ত্ত কৰোৱাৰ আৰু জীৱনীশৈলীৰ জৰিয়তে লক্ষ্যত উপনীত হোৱাৰ প্ৰেৰণা যোগায় য'ত শিশুৱে নিজৰ প্ৰয়োজনীয় স্বাস্থ্য শস্য উৎপন্ন কৰাৰ কৌশল আয়ত্ত কৰে। মধ্যাহ্ন ভোজন আঁচনিৰ দ্বাৰা সমৰ্থিত স্কোলা প্ৰতিষ্ঠান বিদ্যালয়তে আনকি পৰ্যাপ্ত মাটি নথকা বিদ্যালয়তো পাচলি বাগিছা স্থাপন কৰাটো জৰুৰী। যিগোৰ বিদ্যালয়ত পৰ্যাপ্ত পৰিমাণৰ মাটি নাই তেনে বিদ্যালয়ত সৰু টোমা, টাৰ্ফ, কাঠে পেলনীয়া বাকচ, বাৰা সৰ্বক্ষণ কৰা টিনৰ পাত্ৰ আদিত পাচলি খেতি কৰিব পাৰি।

### ক) পাচলি বাগিছা স্থাপনৰ বিশেষত্ব আৰু গাৰুতালতা :

- ১। পাচলি বাগিছাখন দিকোনে ১মিহত আনকি পৰ্যাপ্ত ১মিহ নথকা বিদ্যালয়তো যো স্থাপন কৰিব পাৰি সেই বিষয়ে ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীক জ্ঞান দিয়ে।
- ২। মাত্ৰ কিছু অংশ বাবে পাচলিৰ অধিকাংশই যে খাদ্য হিচাপে গ্ৰহণ কৰিব পাৰি সেই বিষয়ে ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীক জ্ঞান দিয়ে।
- ৩। ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীক নিৰ্দিষ্ট বৃত্তিৰ বাহিৰেই যৈ চিন্তা কৰিবলৈ উৎসাহ দিয়ে আৰু সমস্যাৰ সমাধানৰ পথ উলিওৱাত সহায় কৰে।
- ৪। ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীক বিদ্যালয়ত কৰাৰ দৰে ঘৰতো পাচলি বাগিছা স্থাপন কৰাৰ বাবে উৎসাহ যোগায়।
- ৫। মুক্ত হুঁমত কাম কৰা আৰু নিজৰ প্ৰয়োজনীয় পাচলি উৎপাদন কৰাৰ কৌশল আয়ত্ত কৰাটো বিদ্যালয়ত ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীক বাৰম্বাৰক দিশত জ্ঞান আহৰণ কৰাৰ এক উল্লেখনীয় উপাধাৰণ।
- ৬। শাক-পাচলিৰ অৱগৱহত অংশ তথা বাছনিশালত শাক-পাচলিৰ অৱগৱহত অংশ পঢ়ি যৈ খেতি পথাৰৰ বাবে মেলাপতিয়াল সৰ্ব উপায় কৰে সেই বিষয়ে জ্ঞান আহৰণ কৰিব পাৰে।
- ৭। নিৰ্বাচিত ফলমূলৰ গছ ৰোপনৰ জৰিয়তে বিদ্যালয় চৌহদত উষ্ণতাৰ সামঞ্জস্য বন্ধা কৰিব পাৰি।
- ৮। সেউজীয়া পৰিবেশে বিদ্যালয় চৌহদৰ সৌন্দৰ্য বৰ্দ্ধন কৰে আৰু দৃষ্টিভঙ্গন পৰিবেশ সৃষ্টি কৰে।
- ৯। জলবায়ু পৰিবৰ্তনৰ আৰম্ভকৰণ পৰিবেশৰ পৰা সৰ্বহাৰিয়াৰ বাবে ফলমূলৰ বাগিছাখনে উল্লেখযোগ্য ভূমিকা পালন কৰে।

### খ) বিদ্যালয় পাচলি বাগিছাৰ লক্ষ্য :

- ১। সতেজ পাচলি ফল-শস্য খোৱাৰ ফলত অপুষ্টিজনিত আৰু মহিচক নিউট্ৰিয়েণ্ট অভাৱজনিত অস্বাস্থ্য পৰা ৰক্ষা কৰাত সহায় কৰে।
- ২। ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীক নিজ হাতে কাম কৰাৰ অভিজ্ঞতা প্ৰদান কৰে।
- ৩। ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীক পুষ্টিৰ প্ৰয়োজনীয়তা সম্পৰ্কে জ্ঞান আহৰণত সহায় কৰে আৰু বহল খাদ্য গ্ৰহণৰ অপক্ৰান্তিত মনোৰ্থে সজাগ কৰে।

### গ) বিদ্যালয়ত পাচলি বাগিছা স্থাপনৰ পদ্ধতি :

- ১। ইংৰাজীৰ তথা বিন্দুলয়ৰ অধ্যক্ষ/অধ্যক্ষ শিক্ৰ, ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰী, বিদ্যালয় পৰিচালনা সমিতিৰ সন্মত তথা ইচ্ছুক-ব্যক্তিয়ে বিদ্যালয়ত পাচলি বাগিছা চহোৱা-চিয়া কৰা কাম কৰিব পাৰে। বিদ্যালয়ৰ চুৱাকী শিক্ৰক আৰু এজন শ্ৰেণী তত্ত্বাবধায়ক (Class monitor) বিদ্যালয় পাচলি বাগিছা স্থাপন আৰু চহোৱা-চিয়া কামত সহায় কৰিব পাৰে।

- ২। বিদ্যালয় কৰ্তৃপক্ষই প্ৰত্যেক শ্ৰেণীক সপ্তাহত দুই ঘণ্টা সময় ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীক সমৰ্থিতকাবে আধা-ঘণ্টা পৰা একঘণ্টাৰৈকে সোম্বাৰুলাকাবে এই কাম কৰিবলৈ দায়িত্ব অৰ্পণ কৰিব পাৰে। ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীসকলে পালপাতি নিজৰ মাজত দলগতকাবে এই কাম কৰিব পাৰে। কিছুমান ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰী বা স্কল নিৰ্দিষ্ট কৰিকবী দায়িত্ব অৰ্পণ কৰি দল বা ছাত্ৰ-ছাত্ৰীক "পাম্প অভিব্যক্তি", "সৰ্ভুলি প্ৰবন্ধক", "সুন্দৰ দল", "সৰ্ব যোগ্য ধৰোঁহা দল" আদি নামকৰণেৰে চিহ্নিত কৰি সেইমতে তেওঁলোকৰ পাম্পৰূপিতা বৃদ্ধিৰ বাবে উপদেশ দিব পাৰে আৰু প্ৰয়োজনীয় তথ্য যোগান কৰিব পাৰে।
- ৩। বিদ্যালয়ত পাচলি বাগিছা স্থাপনৰ ক্ষেত্ৰত কৰিবলগীয়া কাৰ্য্যকৰীৰ এখন কেলেণ্ডাৰ ত্ৰুত কৰাটো অত্যন্ত আবশ্যকীয়।
- ৪। পাচলি বাগিছাখনত শীত আৰু গ্ৰীষ্মকালীন শাক-পাচলিৰ খেতি কৰাৰ উপনিও স্থানীয় স্বাস্থ্য আত্মসাৰ লগত খাপ খোৱাকৈ গোটেই বছৰ জুৰি ফল আৰু পাচলি দিয়া গছ-গছনি (যেনে - অমিতা) আদিত অস্থগিত কৰিব পাৰি।
- ৫। পছ-পছনি সমূহৰ বৈজ্ঞানিক নাম, স্থানীয় নাম আৰু লগতে এই গছ-পছনিৰ পৰা পোৱা যাদুৰ গুণা-গুণ নিশি আৰি ধৰালাগে।
- ৬। বিভিন্ন বিভাগ সমূহৰ সৈতে যেনে - কৃষি বিজ্ঞান কেন্দ্ৰ, কৃষি বিভাগ (Agriculture Deptt.) স্বাস্থ্য আৰু পুষ্টি বিভাগ, কৃষি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, অসম বিজ্ঞান সমিতি (Assam Science Society), ফলবিজ্ঞান আদিত লগত যোগাযোগ কৰি কৰিকবী সহায়, প্ৰশিক্ষণ, বীজ সংগ্ৰহ, গছ-পুলি সংগ্ৰহ, জেৰাৰ আৰু আৰু বাৰম্বাৰ কৰিব পাৰি। ইয়াৰ উপৰিও "এমবেণ্ডা" আঁচনিৰ জৰিয়তে বাগিছাখনৰ চাৰিওফালৰ বেৰ নিৰা, মাটিৰ চেটি ত্ৰু কৰা কাম কৰিব পাৰি।
- ৭। বিদ্যালয়ত পাচলি বাগিছা স্থাপন আৰু চহোৱা কৰাৰ বাবে পঢ়িত পাচলি বাগিছাৰ দ্বিধা পৰ্যায়ৰ কমিটীখনে এই ক্ষেত্ৰত প্ৰতিষ্ঠান বিদ্যালয়ক প্ৰয়োজনীয় সহায় আৰু যত্ন তথা এই ক্ষেত্ৰত কমিটীখনে আন আন সমিতি, যোজনা, বিভাগ আৰু শাৰদশী ব্যক্তিক জড়িত কৰোৱাৰ পাৰে।

### ঘ) পাচলি বাগিছাত শিশুৰ সুবন্ধা সম্পৰ্কীয় ব্যবস্থা:

- ১। বাগিছাত শিশুৰ সুবন্ধাৰ বাবে সঠিক মাপৰ সঁজুলি ব্যবহাৰ কৰিব লাগে।
- ২। শ্ৰেণী বা সাৰ আদি শিশুৰ পৰা নিৰাপদ দূৰত্বত ৰাখিব লাগে।
- ৩। বাসায়নিক ত্ৰু বা ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিব নলাগে। বাগিছা স্থাপন কৰিব পৰা ঠাইহে বাগিছাৰ বাবে নিৰ্বাচন কৰিব লাগে।
- ৪। সা-সৰ্ভুলি সমূহ নিৰাপদ স্থানত ৰাখিব লাগে।
- ৫। উপযুক্ত বেৰ আদি দিব লাগে আৰু বাগিছাৰ চৌহদৰ ৰক্ষণাবেক্ষণ দিব লাগে।
- ৬। উপযুক্তকাবে ব'ম পৰা আৰু পৰ্যাপ্ত উষ্ণতা থকা ঠাই নিৰ্বাচন কৰিব লাগে।
- ৭। যথা সম্ভৱ ছাত্ৰী সকলে সুৰক্ষিত পোচাক ব্যৱহাৰ কৰিব লাগে।
- ৮। পানী ৰাতি বা বাকেট সৰু সৰু ল'ৰা-ছোৱালীৰ পৰা নিৰাপদ স্থানত ৰাখিব লাগে।

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Pic: Guidelines and Methodology on School Nutrition Gardens

CHANGING ASSAM THROUGH EDUCATION

**Hoarding on Sampriti Bhojan:**

Hoardings on Sampriti Bhojan have been installed in two prominent places of all the districts to promote the concept and encourage people to come forward for providing food to children in the schools on special occasions such as festivals, anniversaries, birthdays, marriages, and days of national importance etc.

**Sampriti Bhojan**  
**under Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Assam**  
 An initiative taken by Ministry of Human Resource Development  
 (Department of School Education & Literacy), Govt. of India

Sampriti Bhojan, a community participation programme, has been initiated under Mid-Day Meal Scheme by relying on the traditional practice of providing food to people on special occasions such as festivals, anniversaries, birthdays, marriages, and days of national importance etc. in the state of Assam. Members of the community voluntarily provide nutritious and healthy food to the children as full meal or an additional food item in the form of sweets, namkeens, fruits or sprouts etc. on such special occasions/festivals. Sampriti Bhojan supplements or complements Mid-Day Meal.

**1. Benefits/Need of Sampriti Bhojan:**

- Sense of belonging among the community.
- Supplementation of the nutritional value of MDM food.
- Development of rapport with the local community.
- Inculcation of the feeling of equity among the children of all communities.

**2. Points for effective implementation:**

★ **Identification of donors and awareness generation:**

- Initiatives may be taken for involving donors-individual, NGOs or other charitable organizations.
- School Management Committee (SMC) members may also discuss ways for community involvement and mobilization.
- The concept and importance of Sampriti Bhojan may be discussed during the SMC meetings to emphasize the significance of additional meals for enhancing the nutritional status of children.
- A frequency/time schedule may also be prepared for the distribution of Sampriti Bhojan on an adequate interval suitable to the donor and also to encourage the participation of other donors.
- If the nature of the donation could be termed as a major donation e.g for a class or many classes or the whole school then the Donor may be invited to be present during the serving of Sampriti Bhojan or Donor's name may be announced in the morning assembly.

★ **Items to be provided under Sampriti Bhojan:**

- During Sampriti Bhojan food items to be provided to children may be a full meal or as an additional item.
- The food articles to be provided to children should be as per food habits of the children of the region.
- Fruits, milk, sweets, eggs, biscuits, halwa, Chikki, sprouts etc. or any other item liked by children may be provided as an additional item.
- A list of food items preferred by children may also be prepared and shared with the concerned interested community people for future use to ensure maximum satisfaction of the children.

★ **Other items that may be provided:**

The items like plates, glasses, spoons, water filters, food processors, school bags, soaps, liquid hand-wash or any other item as per the need of the children and the school may also be considered to be provided under Sampriti Bhojan.

★ **Management of items provided under Sampriti Bhojan:**

- Separate registers shall be maintained for keeping record of the donations, record of category wise items and also record of donors of Sampriti Bhojan.
- The donors may be honoured or given recognition by the school during SMC meetings or annual functions of the school with the community to encourage the practice.

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**Pic: Hoarding on Sampriti Bhojan**



**Pic: Sampriti Bhojan in the schools**

#### **D. Kitchen Garden in Schools:**

Setting up of School Nutrition Garden (Kitchen Gardens) highlights the critical learning of lifelong skill and seeks to achieve a goal where children learn the skill of growing their own food. School children also learn to appreciate conservation of nature as well as the importance of vegetables for health and wellness. Benefits of School Nutrition Gardens are-

- School Nutrition Gardens are the best source of fresh organic vegetables.
- Students get nutritious vegetables in MDM.
- Establish the green atmosphere in the school surrounding.
- Students get knowledge of work.
- Knowledge of horticulture and agriculture growth can be developed.
- Awareness about environmental education.
- Information of vegetables and its uses.
- Increase involvement of students, teachers and community.
- Upholds dignity of labour.
- Instills love for nature.
- Promotes concept of greenery.
- Helps in developing a good hobby.
- Helps in beautifying the school.
- Encourage self-sufficiency.

Each & every school covered under Mid-Day Meal Scheme must have School Nutrition Garden irrespective of availability of land. Plants may be grown in small containers, cans, jars, discarded earthen pots, wooden peti, ceramic sinks, food tins, bags where land is not available for SNG.

Considerable steps were taken to set up School Nutrition Garden in each & every school covered under Mid-Day Meal Scheme again. Following instructions were given to all the schools-

- (A) Each & every school covered under Mid-Day Meal Scheme must have School Nutrition Garden irrespective of availability of land. Plants may be grown in small containers, cans, jars, discarded earthen pots, wooden peti, ceramic sinks, food tins, bags where land is not available.
- (B) Along with the plantation of plants/shrubs of seasonal vegetables of winter & summer seasons, plants/shrubs having vegetables & fruits throughout the year in all seasons and fit in with local food habits should be planted & nurtured. As for example, papaya plant.
- (C) The scientific name as well as local name along with nutritional value of each plant/shrub must be displayed properly.
- (D) Eco Club, enthusiastic children, SMC Members & interested persons from the community may look after the development of School Nutrition Gardens.
- (E) The Head of the Institution is to depute a teacher of his/her school as Nodal Teacher for maintaining & developing School Nutritional Garden in his/her respective school.

- (F) A register in this regard is to be maintained by every school which will include columns for recording item-wise total weight of the produce as & when utilized from the School Nutrition Garden. A format for the same is given hereunder-

Sl. No.	Date	Name of the item	Total weight in KG	Signature of the Nodal Teacher/Head of the Inst.
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SMCs of the concerned schools were requested to develop School Nutrition Gardens in their own schools with the help of SMC members, teachers, Eco club headed by the Head Teacher/Head Master, enthusiastic students and interested community members. The result is so encouraging in almost all schools. The students are enjoying eating green vegetables from their own kitchen garden.

District Level Committees for School Nutrition Gardens were constituted under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner and representatives of all line departments in all districts during 2019-20 to ensure setting up of School Nutrition Gardens in all schools in convergence with all line departments.



Padma Nath Gohain Boruah (PNGB) HS of Lakhimpur district



Balikuchi ME School of Nalbari district



Pic: Tekelia Kur Grant ME School, Darrang



Pic: Sili Surivodoi High School, Dhemaii



Pic: Khuarupetia HS School, Darrang



Pic: Missamari LP School, Darrang

**E. Group Hand-washing before Mid-Day-Meal:**

Assam model of Group Hand-washing before Mid-Day-Meal is one of the best model in the country with low cost high value principle, which is appreciated at the national/international level. As reported, this activity has enhanced enrolment and retention of children in schools vis-à-vis reduced the diseases like diarrhea, skin disease etc.



***Pic: Group Hand-washing in the schools of Assam***

**F. Honourarium to Cook cum Helpers through e-transfer:**

Prior to April, 2016, the monthly honorarium of Cook cum Helpers had been released in the SMC's bank account from State Nodal Office, Guwahati. Accordingly, monthly honorarium of CCHs were paid by SMC's President and Member Secretary through cheque or cash. The process of disbursement of monthly honorarium took a reasonable period of time leading the Cook cum Helpers engaged by SMC in trouble for getting their monthly honorarium in time. Sometime, report of siphoning of amounts sanctioned at different level had also been reported. The Cook cum Helpers Association had been demanding frequently to release their monthly honorarium through their individual bank account.

To make the system of disbursement of monthly honorarium more transparent and to plug the loopholes in respect of proper disbursement of monthly honorarium of Cook cum Helpers to their individual bank accounts directly, it was decided to take help of platforms of different banks right from nationalized, regional rural banks and also private banks to transfer the fund through RTGS from State Nodal Office to avoid unnecessary delay in getting their monthly honorarium from SMCs.

Subsequently, all Cook cum Helpers were persuaded and motivated to open zero balance bank accounts with the help of bank branches available locally during 2015-16 and 2016-17. Accordingly, they opened bank accounts in different banks and provided to State Nodal Office through District Nodal Office. Details of bank accounts of CCH were given to Axis Bank, Bhangagarh branch, Guwahati for validation and necessary correction like IFS code etc. for initiating the exercise.

Subsequently, the monthly honorarium of Cook cum Helpers @Rs.1000/- have been released to their personal bank account through RTGS/NEFT mode w.e.f. April, 2016.

***Positive Impact:***

Adoption of this electronic transfer mode of fund has made the process of disbursement easy, transparent, well monitored and corruption free. CCHs are now more motivated in performing their assigned duties for feeding the children. This will be a positive step towards achieving the universal objective of women empowerment to embolden the society, as such.

The Mid-Day Meal scheme is being efficiently and properly implemented as per the guidelines and all the Cook-cum-Helpers are playing a very vital role in this regard.

**G. Display Board:**

Display board along with duster and markers has been provided to the schools for displaying day-to-day MDM records for transparency.

**H. Tarpaulin (sitting mat):**

Tarpaulin (sitting mat) has been provided to the schools for eating MDM in hygienic manner.



**Pic: Students taking MDM sitting on Tarpaulin**

**Printing of “Guideline on Food Safety & Hygiene at School Level Kitchens”:**

Guidelines on food safety and hygiene for school level kitchens under MDM Scheme have been translated into Assamese, Bengali and Bodo languages and distributed to the schools. MDM Rules, 2015 have also been translated into Assamese, Bengali and Bodo languages and printed in the said booklet. Training has been imparted to Cook cum Helpers, President & Member Secretary of the SMCs on food safety and hygiene for school level kitchens and MDM Rules, 2015.

**2.21 Untoward incidents**

**2.21.1 Instances of unhygienic food served, children falling ill:**

No instance of unhygienic food served & children falling ill are reported in the State. In 2020-21 FY, Food Security Allowance (rice and cooking cost or its equivalent pulses, vegetables, oil etc.) was provided to all the eligible children through doorstep delivery by visiting their houses during closure of schools on account of COVID-19 pandemic and summer vacation.

**2.21.2 Sub-standard supplies:**

FCI issues food grains of best available quality or at least of Fair Average Quality (FAQ).

**2.21.3 Diversion/ misuse of resources:**

No report has been received by the State regarding diversion and misuse of Mid-Day Meal rice duringn2020-21.

**2.21.4 Social discrimination:**

In Assam, social discrimination does not exist. No such incidence on social discrimination has been reported from any school till date. Mid-Day-Meal is taken by children together indifferent of caste, creed, religion etc.

**2.21.5 Action taken and safety measures adopted to avoid recurrence of such incidents. Whether Emergency Plan exists to tackle any untoward incident:**

Time to time SMCs has been instructed to maintain hygienic environment during preparation and delivery of Mid-Day Meal and to maintain fire safety. Fire extinguishers have also been provided in the schools for Fire safety. Almost all schools have displayed Emergency plan in front of office room of the schools.

**2.22 Status of Rastriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram:**

**2.22.1 Provision of micro- nutrients, de-worming medicine, Iron and Folic acid (WIFS):**

**A. IFA Supplementation:**

The morbidity and mortality risks associated with anemia calls for an urgent need to design an effective strategy to address this public health problem. The decline in anemia prevalence will in turn contribute in improved maternal and child survival rates, and improved health outcomes for other population groups. Government of India has made a commitment to Global World Health Assembly target of 50% reduction of anemia among women of reproductive age by 2025. In view of the above mentioned national and global commitments, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has developed the Anemia Mukh Bharat strategy, providing preventive and curative mechanisms for anaemia.

School is the best platform for implementation IFA supplementation programme. Each school children age between 5–19 years should be provided the weekly IFA tablet in schools using spot feeding approach of IFA after the mid-day meal by teachers in Government aided schools and after lunch break in private schools. Schools may submit their quarterly requirement of drug to the nearest Sub Centre or Health Institution for drug collection and submit the monthly report to the same.

**Stakeholder departments of IFA Supplementation of Students**

- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- Ministry of Education (Department of School Education and Literacy)



## Age wise Dose and regime

Age group	Dose and regime
5–9 years of age	Weekly, 1 Iron and Folic Acid tablet Each tablet containing 45 mg elemental Iron + 400 mcg Folic Acid, sugar-coated, pink colour School-going adolescent girls and boys.
10–19 years of age	Weekly, 1 Iron and Folic Acid tablet Each tablet containing 60 mg elemental iron + 500 mcg Folic Acid, sugar-coated, blue colour

Coverage of children under IFA supplementation in 2020-21 was poor due to closure of schools on account of COVID-19 pandemic. A total of 29,73,522 children consumed IFA tablets in 2020-21 and the details are given in the following table-







Class	Boy	Girl	Total
Class I-V	695309	707981	1403290
Class VI-XII	764146	806086	1570232
<b>Total</b>	<b>1459455</b>	<b>1514067</b>	<b>2973522</b>

## **B. Deworming**

Soil Transmitted Helminths (STH) are significant public health concern for Assam. Around 68% children of 1-14 years of age are estimated to be at risk of parasitic intestinal worm infestation in India. Evidence has shown detrimental impact of STH infestation on physical growth-anaemia, under nutrition and cognitive development as well as school attendance. Periodic deworming can reduce the transmission of STH infections. Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, in collaboration with Ministry of Women & Child Development, Department of School Education & Literacy (under Ministry of Human Resource Development), Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and Ministry of Panchayati Raj has decided to conduct annual mass deworming day observing National Deworming Day (NDD).

The objective of NDD is to deworm all preschool and school-age children between the ages of 1-19 years through the platform of schools and anganwadi centers in order to improve their overall health, nutritional status, access to education and quality of life. Under this programme all school going students are dewormed biannually.

## Doses

AGE	DOSAGE	ADMINISTRATION
1-2 years		Crush the half tablet between two spoons, then add safe water to help administer the tablet 
2-3 years		Crush one full tablet between two spoons, then add safe water to help administer the tablet 
3-19 years		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask children aged 3-19 to chew the tablet properly.</li> <li>• Albendazole tablets that are not chewed may have significantly lower effectiveness.</li> <li>• Ensure drinking water is available.</li> <li>• Use a spoon to administer one full tablet to the child yourself and do not give it to parents to be taken home.</li> </ul> 

Due to COVID 19 Pandemic in 2020-21, NDD was conducted as a community-based programme as schools were closed as per Govt. notification.

A total number of 85,22,695 children & adolescents of 1 to 19 years consumed Albendazole tablets till September, 2020 in 2020-21 FY.

### 2.22.2 **Distribution of spectacles to children with refractive error:**

The children are screened through MHT (Mobile Health Teams) in schools and identified children are referred to the appropriate health facility for further screening. Children identified with refractive error are given spectacles.

### 2.22.3 **Recording of height, weight etc.:**

Height and weight of the children in AWC and schools are measured by the MHT by using infant-meter/ stadiometer, weight scale, categories them as severe/ moderate malnourished children and refer them to the counseling center for proper counseling.

### 2.22.4 **Number of visits made by the RBSK team for the health check-up of the children (Please ensure to upload at least two photographs of the visit of the medical team in each school on MDM-MIS portal):**

Mobile Health Teams are there for screening children in AWCs and schools and refer the children to other health facilities for secondary/ tertiary treatment free of cost.

Screening of children is done twice in a year in AWC and once in a year in school through Mobile Health Team.

**2.23 Present monitoring structure at various levels. Strategy for establishment of monitoring cell at various levels viz. Block, District and State level for effective monitoring of the scheme:**

State Steering cum Monitoring Committee headed by the Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Assam monitors the implementation of the scheme at State level.

The District Administrations regularly holds District Development Committee meeting to discuss inter-alia implementation of Mid-Day Meal scheme in the districts. However, District Level Monitoring Committees headed by the Deputy Commissioners were constituted in all the districts and Block Level Monitoring Committees under Mid-Day Meal Scheme were constituted in all the Education Blocks of Assam in 2019-20 to oversee the effective implementation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme. Functions of the committees were also notified and the details are given hereunder-

The functions of these committees are to:-

1. Guide the various implementation agencies.
2. Monitor programme implementation, assess its impact and take corrective steps.
3. Take action on reports of independent monitoring/evaluation agencies.
4. Effect co-ordination and convergence among various departments, agencies (e.g. FCI) and schemes.
5. Mobilize community support and promoting public-private partnership (PPP).

These committees are also requested to perform some specific functions in addition-

1. Ensuring Food Safety, Health & Hygiene at school level under Mid-Day Meal Scheme.
2. Ensuring that contingency plan under MDMS at school, block and district level is in place for avoiding any untoward situation.
3. Ensuring 100% schools reporting in Automated Reporting & Monitoring System.
4. Reviewing the constructions works under MDMS e.g. Kitchen-cum-Stores.
5. Block Level Committees will submit their reports/minutes of the monthly meeting to the District Level Committee for taking necessary actions.
6. District Level Committee will review the minutes/reports of the meeting of Block Level Committees in addition to the normal functions of the committee.
7. District Level Monitoring Committee will review the school-wise allotment of food grains (rice) and lifting of the same from FCI and supply of the same to the schools along with payment of cost of food grains to the FCI.
8. District Level and Block Level Monitoring Committees will review the status of implementation of any initiative as & when taken under MDMS and take corrective measures if necessary.
9. District Level and Block Level Monitoring Committees will review the complaints/grievances under MDMS. District Level Committee will take appropriate actions against any complaint/grievance as per rule.

## **2.24 Meetings of Steering cum Monitoring Committees at the Block, District and State level**

### **2.24.1 Number of meetings held at various level and gist of the issues discussed in the meeting:**

The District Administrations hold District Development Committee meetings every month under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioners to discuss inter-alia implementation of Mid-Day Meal scheme in the district.

The meeting of the District Level Monitoring Committee as well as Block Level Monitoring Committees is to be convened every month. However, due to COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-21, meetings of the Block Level Committees of many Education Blocks could not be held every month.

Meeting of the State Steering and Monitoring Committee of MDMS was held on 26/08/2020 and the gist of the issues discussed in the meeting are as follows-

- Rate of Cooking Cost was revised and increased by 10.99% w.e.f. 1st April, 2020 (Present rate of Cooking Cost: @Rs.4.97/- per day per child for children of LP stage and @Rs.7.45/- per day per child for children of UP stage w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2020) and hence, an egg per week per child has been made compulsory under the menu of Mid-Day Meal Scheme with the objectives of increasing nutrition and boosting immunity of the children.
- Children migrated from other states due to COVID-19 pandemic would be covered under MDM Scheme within the available provision immediately after getting enrolled in the schools.
- Grants @Rs.800/- per school for purchase of hand washing soap and detergent powder would be released to the schools immediately on drawal of Ad-hoc recurring Central Share.
- The children of 02 aspirational districts viz. Darrang and Baksa would be provided with eating plates and drinking water glasses.
- As the schools were closed due to Covid-19 since March/2020, it was ensured to provide Food Security Allowance to all the eligible children as per entitlement through door step delivery.
- Govt. of India sanctioned Mid-Day Meal for 27 days during summer vacation, 2020-21 as a special measure on account of COVID-19 pandemic and accordingly children were covered under Food Security Allowance in the state of Assam during Summer Vacation in the month of May'2020.

### **2.24.2 Action taken on the decisions taken during these meetings:**

Necessary actions have been taken as per resolutions taken during the meetings held at State, District and Block level for better implementation of the Scheme.

**2.25 Frequency of meeting of District Level Committee held under the chairmanship of senior most MP of the District to monitor the scheme. Gist of the issues discussed and action taken thereon:**

Meeting of District Level Committee held under the chairmanship of senior MP is held twice in a year in every district.

**2.26 Arrangement for official inspections to MDM centers/schools and percentage of schools inspected and summary of findings and remedial measures taken:**

The Director of Elementary Education, Assam and the then SNO, MDMS issued instruction to the District, Sub-divisional and Block level officers to inspect at least 25% schools/ centres in every quarter. As reported, the district level officers inspect schools regularly. Target for school inspection has been fixed as below for DEEO, D.I. of schools, BEEO, S.I. of schools.

- DEEO will have to visit 15 schools in a month.
- D.I of schools will have to visit 20 schools in a month.
- BEEO will have to visit 25 schools in a month.
- SI of schools will have to visit 40 schools in a month.

Apart from above, SSA & MDM functionaries from State to District & Block level offices are also entrusted to visit schools to monitor the implementation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme in the schools and also to provide necessary support at field levels for smooth implementation of MDM activities.

**2.27 Details of the Contingency Plan to avoid any untoward incident. Printing of important phone numbers (eg. Primary health center, Hospital, Fire brigade etc) on the walls of school building:**

The District Nodal Officers, MDMS cum Deputy Commissioners/Principal Secretaries (Autonomous Council) were instructed by the Govt vide letter no. PMA/MDM-Cell/62/2011/36, dtd. 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 to ensure having of a contingency plan at School, Block, Sub-Division and at the District Level to face any sort of incident that may possibly occur in connection with MDM scheme. The contact numbers of the important functionaries are to be displayed in visible place preferably Wall in the schools to use at urgent/emergency moment. All schools including offices have maintained above instruction.

**i. Contingency Plan for district:**

The important phone numbers of Deputy Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioner, District Civil Hospital, Ambulance service, DEEO, DMC are reflected on the wall of DEEO/ DMC office and Inspector of Schools office and the phone Number of Head teacher of all schools are reflected in a diary.

**ii. Contingency Plan for Block:**

The important phone numbers of Deputy Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioner, District Civil Hospital, Ambulance service, DEEO, DMC, BEEO, BMC, Public Health Centre are reflected on the wall of BEEO/ BMC office and the phone Number of Head teacher of all schools are reflected in a diary.

### iii. Contingency Plan for Schools:

- The important phone numbers of Deputy Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioner, District Civil Hospital, Ambulance service, DEEO, DMC, BEEO, BMC, Public Health Centre, Headmaster of the school, SMC President are reflected on the wall of the School.
- Schools should keep First-Aid-Box with adequate medicines, bandage, detol, cotton, sand etc.

Also, the following steps are taken by District authority / school authority.

- ✓ If cooked food is found contaminated that may be buried under ground.
- ✓ Unusable rice may be destroyed in presence of district administration.
- ✓ Always use agmarked oil, turmeric etc. in cooking food.
- ✓ Cooked food must be tasted by the teacher/ SMC member 30 minutes before distribution of the same among the children.
- ✓ Fast aid training to be arranged for teacher & SMC members.
- ✓ Fire extinguisher shall be installed in the school.

## 2.28 Grievance Redressal Mechanism

### 2.28.1 Details regarding Grievance Redressal at all levels:

Most of the *grievances* relating to MDM Scheme in the district as well in the state are usually received via writing. Use of IT for grievance redressal has been given due importance for fast and prompt action. Complaints regarding MDM Scheme from different stakeholder in the districts are also received through a dedicated email & WhatsApp group **created for MDM Scheme**. A Toll-Free Contact Centre is setup at State Mission Office for SSA & MDMS with the number 18003453525.

Complaints received at state are referred to the concerned district officials to inquire into the matter with competent authority and take necessary action as deemed appropriate. Accordingly, all complaints have been redressed.

### 2.28.2 Details of complaints received i.e. Nature of complaints etc.

Most of the complaints are related to quality & quantity of MDM, corruption, irregularities of serving MDM etc.

### 2.28.3 Time schedule for disposal of complaints:

The complaints are resolved as soon as possible and it is made sure no complaints remain unsolved.

### 2.28.4 Details of action taken on the complaints:

In 2020-21, two complaints were received at state level viz. (i) complaint against the Head Teacher of Paschim Rajapukhuri Bagicha LP School, Darrang district for irregularity in distribution of Food Security Allowance and corruption and (ii) complaint against the Head Master of Moronoipara Dubachuri ME Madrassa, Bongaigaon district for misappropriation of MDM fund. Respective districts were instructed to conduct inquiry into the complaints and submit the action taken reports for taking further necessary action. As per inquiry reports submitted by the districts, both the schools properly distributed Food Security Allowance during closure of schools on account of COVID-19 pandemic and there was no anomaly in implementation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme in respect of both the schools. The complaints were found baseless.

**2.29 Details regarding Awareness Generation & Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities and Media campaign, carried out at State/district/block/school level:**

Various steps have been taken for awareness generation on MDMS in the State since inception on regular basis. Hoardings on MDMS as IEC were installed in prominent places of district headquarters. Arrangement has also been made for fixing / fitting MDM logo in all schools. MDM Calendars having information with regard to norms of the scheme, MDM Rules, 2015, Guidelines of Tithi Bhojan were also provided to schools and offices of Education Department and district administration offices in 2019 and in prior years. In SMC training, issues related to MDM are also shared.

Guidelines on food safety and hygiene for school level kitchens under MDM Scheme, MDM Rules, 2015 and other aspects of Mid-Day Meal Scheme have been translated into **Assamese, Bengali and Bodo languages** and distributed to all the schools and other stakeholders.

Pictorial posters highlighting Do's & Don'ts in respect of different aspects of Mid-Day Meal Scheme were provided to all the schools during 2019-20 FY. Contents are given hereunder-

Posters	Contents
1	Norms of Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Weekly Suggested Menu and ARMS
2	School Nutrition Garden
3	Sampriti Bhojan (Tithi Bhojan)
4	Pictorial poster on Food Safety & Hygiene aspect of implementation of MDMS at schools
5	Pictorial poster on Health & Hygiene aspect to be followed in schools as per contents provided by NHM
6	Pictorial posters related to Disaster Mgmt Information provided by Assam State Disaster Management Authority

In 2019-20, hoardings on Sampriti Bhojan were installed in two prominent places of all the districts to promote the concept and encourage people to come forward for providing food to children in the schools on special occasions such as festivals, anniversaries, birthdays, marriages, and days of national importance etc.



***Pic: Hoarding on Sampriti Bhojan***

**2.30 Overall assessment of the manner in which implementation of the programme is contributing to the programme objectives and an analysis of strengths and weaknesses of the programme implementation:**

Aristotle said, "A sound mind resides in a healthy body." Mid-Day Meal Scheme is playing a vital role in providing nutrition to the students, in increasing retention in the schools, in increasing attendance of the children in schools, in minimizing gender differences & class differences, in inculcating sense of secularism in the mindset of the students, in developing culture & finally good citizenship. Impact of MDM scheme is found to be wide and varied. The impact of the Scheme has been considerably significant with regard to enrolment and retention of children in schools. The food provided in school has given physical and mental strength to the children for study and created a joyful atmosphere in classrooms activities. While many children are from BPL families, they either school unfed or half-fed. In such circumstances, Mid-Day Meal is playing a very significant role in addressing hunger and malnutrition of the children.

During COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-21 FY, the schools were closed; lockdown, either partial or full, was imposed in the state for months and subsequently, many people went without work, money and food. But all eligible children of the state of age from 6 to 14 years were provided Food Security Allowance under Mid-Day Meal Scheme in terms of rice and cooking cost or its equivalent ingredients like pulses, vegetables, oil, salt, condiments and weekly one egg per child against all school scheduled days as per AWP & Budget, 2020-21 and also during summer vacation through doorstep delivery. The state Govt., the dedicated staff of MDMS in the state, SSA staff at different level, other stakeholders of Education Department, teachers and School Management Committees gave their best efforts to deliver Food Security Allowance to the children by visiting their houses maintaining all COVID-19 protocols in order to maintain the nutrition of the children and boost their immunity during the most critical crisis period in the human history.

As far as the implementation of MDMS in the State is concerned, the areas of strength and weakness may be mentioned as below:

**Strength:-**

1. Community participation.
2. Awareness of parents/ guardians.
3. Absence of social and caste prejudice.
4. Awareness of parents/ guardians.
5. Adequate budget provision.
6. Incorporation of group hand-wash facilities, Kitchen Garden.
7. Strong monitoring and support system of all stakeholders.

**Weakness:-**

1. Lack of knowledge on books of accounts on the part of SMC.
2. Shortage of manpower at block level.

**2.31 Action Plan for ensuring enrolment of all school children under Aadhaar before the stipulated date:**

Enrolling all the school children under Aadhaar has been started in 2020-21 in the state and is now going on. Already 2 lacs c children have been enrolled under Aadhaar.



### **2.32 Contribution by community in the form of Tithi Bhojan or any other similar practices in the State/ UT:**

Sampriti Bhojan, a community participation programme, has been initiated under Mid-Day Meal Scheme by relying on the traditional practice of providing food to people on special occasions such as festivals, anniversaries, birthdays, marriages, and days of national importance etc. in the state of Assam. Members of the community voluntarily provide nutritious and healthy food to the children as full meal or an additional food item in the form of sweets, namkeens, fruits or sprouts etc. on such special occasions/festivals. Sampriti Bhojan supplements or complements Mid-Day Meal.

In this regards, State Govt. had issued notification on 25<sup>th</sup> August/2015 vide No. PMA/MDM-Cell/09/2015/4 dtd. 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2015.

During 2019-20, hoardings on Sampriti Bhojan have been installed in two prominent places of all the districts to promote the concept and encourage people to come forward for providing food to children in the schools on special occasions such as festivals, anniversaries, birthdays, marriages, and days of national importance etc.

### **2.33 Kitchen Gardens**

#### **2.33.1 Status of availability of kitchen gardens in the schools. (Please furnish school wise details for all districts in the table given at Annexure – W 1.):**

Schools Nutrition Gardens were set up in 33,704 schools before the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. District level committees have been set up in all districts under the chairmanship of DCs and members from all line departments for the purpose. Initiatives have been taken to set up School Nutrition Gardens in the remaining schools in convergence with other line departments.

#### **2.33.2 Mapping of schools with the corresponding Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK):**

District Level Committees of School Nutrition Gardens during 2019-20 have been advised to take necessary steps for mapping of schools with the corresponding Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

#### **2.33.3 Details of the mechanisms adopted for the setting up and Maintenance of kitchen gardens:**

District Level Committees for School Nutrition Gardens were constituted under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner and representatives of all line departments in all districts during 2019-20 to ensure setting up of School Nutrition Gardens in all schools in convergence with all line departments. The Deputy Commissioners, all districts, were requested to ensure set up kitchen gardens in all the schools covered under Mid-Day Meal Scheme as per guidelines issued by the MHRD, GOI, vide No.1-8/2019-Desk (MDM) Dtd. 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2019.

Following instructions were given to all the schools-

- Each & every school covered under Mid-Day Meal Scheme must have School Nutrition Garden irrespective of availability of land. Plants may be grown in small containers, cans, jars, discarded earthen pots, wooden peti, ceramic sinks, food tins, bags where land is not available.

- Along with the plantation of plants/shrubs of seasonal vegetables of winter & summer seasons, plants/shrubs having vegetables & fruits throughout the year in all seasons and fit in with local food habits should be planted & nurtured. As for example, papaya plant.
- The scientific name as well as local name along with nutritional value of each plant/shrub must be displayed properly.
- Eco Club, enthusiastic children, SMC Members & interested persons from the community may look after the development of School Nutrition Gardens.
- The Head of the Institution is to depute a teacher of his/her school as Nodal Teacher for maintaining & developing School Nutritional Garden in his/her respective school.
- A register in this regard is to be maintained by every school which will include columns for recording item-wise total weight of the produce as & when utilized from the School Nutrition Garden. A format for the same is given hereunder-

Sl. No.	Date	Name of the item	Total weight in KG	Signature of the Nodal Teacher/Head of the Inst.
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Moreover, poster on various aspects of School Nutrition Gardens including important guidelines for setting up of School Nutrition Gardens issued by the MHRD, Govt. of India, have been provided to all the schools and state/district/block offices.

#### 2.33.4 **Whether the produce of these kitchen gardens is used in MDM:**

Produce of kitchen gardens is used in MDM and students enjoy taking green organic vegetables with Mid-Day Meal from their own kitchen gardens.

#### 2.33.5 **Action plan for setting up of kitchen gardens in all schools:**

Kitchens gardens will be set up in all the remaining schools during 2021-22 by adopting mechanism and plan mentioned above at Pt. No 2.33.3.

### **2.34 Details of action taken to operationalize the MDM Rules, 2015:**

As per Notification of MDM Rules, 2015, the DNOs, MDM have been informed to implement the Rules immediately for implementation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme. In addition, the MDM Rules, 2015 has been translated into Assamese, Bengali and Bodo languages and printed with the booklet on “guidelines on food safety and hygiene for school level kitchens under MDM Scheme” and distributed to the schools and other stakeholders. Accordingly, training has been conducted to Cook cum Helpers, President & Member Secretary of the SMCs on food safety and hygiene for school level kitchens and MDM Rules, 2015. Further, MDM Rules, 2015 has also been printed in the MDM Calendar, 2018 and provided to all schools of educational offices.

### **2.35 Details of payment of Food Security Allowances and its mechanism:**

Details are given in Pt. No. 2.39.

## **2.36 Cooking Competition**

### **2.36.1 Whether cooking competitions have been organized at different levels in 2020-21:**

No, due to COVID-19 pandemic, no cooking competition could be organized in 2020-21.

### **2.36.2 if yes in 2.36.1,**

#### **2.36.2.1 the number of participants in these competitions:**

Does not arise.

#### **2.36.2.2 Details of judges:**

Does not arise.

#### **2.36.2.3 How many participants were awarded:**

Does not arise.

#### **2.36.2.4 Was the awarded participants given any cash prizes:**

Does not arise.

#### **2.36.2.5 Whether the awarded recipes have been shared with schools:**

Does not arise.

### **2.36.3 Details of action plan for year 2021-22:**

If the state comes out of COVID-19 pandemic situation, then Cooking Competition will be organized in 2021-22.

## **2.37 Details of minor modifications from the existing guidelines carried out by District Level Committee chaired by the District Magistrate.**

No proposal is received from the districts till date.

## **2.38 Details of new interventions (preferably for areas affected with malnutrition, anemia etc. aspirational districts) envisaged under 5% flexi funds – For each intervention, please provide detailed information in the below template**

### **2.38.1 Background Note:**

No intervention is proposed under Flexi Funds during 2021-22.

### **2.38.2 Objectives:**

Does not arise.

### **2.38.3 Rationale for the intervention:**

Does not arise

### **2.38.4 Time lines:**

Does not arise.

### **2.38.5 Coverage**

#### **2.38.5.1 Number of Districts: N/A**

- 2.38.5.2 Number of schools: N/A
- 2.38.5.3 Number of children: N/A
- 2.38.5.4 Number of working days: N/A

- 2.38.6 Requirement of Funds: N/A
- 2.38.7 Monitoring: N/A
- 2.38.8 Outcome measurement: N/A
- 2.38.9 Impact assessment: N/A

## 2.39 Details about provision of Food Security Allowance during closure of schools on account of COVID Pandemic

### 2.39.1 Methodology adopted for distribution of Food Security Allowance:

Either HT/HM/Teacher if his/her house is situated in the same village/locality of the school or otherwise SMC/SMDC President is to ensure distribution of Food Security Allowance to the eligible children as per entitlement/norms by visiting their houses only observing all the norms as laid down by the Health Department due to outbreak of COVID-19 virus.

### 2.39.2 Mechanism followed for management and monitoring:

Details of mechanism for management and monitoring adopted in Assam for proper distribution of Food Security Allowance during COVID-19 pandemic in 2021-22 are given below-

1. Heads of the Institutions and School Management Committees/ School Management Development Committees are to ensure distribution of Food Security Allowance to all the eligible children of respective schools as per norms during closure period due to COVID-19 pandemic.
2. School Management Committees/ School Management Development Committees are to maintain detailed records of distribution of Food Security Allowance. **Format for keeping records of distribution of Food Security Allowance is given in Annexure-I.**
3. Block Accountants under SSA are to ensure that all the schools under their area of jurisdiction are distributing Food Security Allowance as per norms and entitlement.
4. Block Accountants are to ensure that all the schools under their area of jurisdiction have maintained detailed records of distribution of Food Security allowance properly for future audit.
5. Cluster Resource Centre Co-ordinators, SSA, are to monitor and ensure proper distribution of Food Security Allowance of all the schools under their respective clusters.
6. Cluster Resource Centre Co-ordinators are to submit school-wise compiled reports of distribution of Food Security Allowance of their respective clusters to the respective Block Education Offices.

7. Block Mission Co-ordinators, SSA cum Block Nodal Officers, MDMS, are to submit school-wise compiled reports of distribution of Food Security Allowance of their respective education blocks to the District Mission Co-ordinator, SSA & Asstt. District Nodal Officer, MDMS, of the district.
8. All stakeholders at various levels viz. Cluster Resource Centre Co-ordinators, SSA; Block Accountants, SSA; Sub-Inspector of Schools; Block Mission Co-ordinator, SSA cum Block Nodal Officer, MDMS; District Mission Co-ordinator, SSA & Asstt. District Nodal Officer, MDMS; Mid-Day Meal employees engaged at district as well as state levels etc. are to monitor the distribution of Food Security Allowance.
9. District Administration will take necessary action for proper distribution of Food Security Allowance to the eligible children in the district during the closure of schools due to COVID-19 pandemic.
10. Mid-Day Meal employees engaged at district as well as state levels are to manage, monitor and co-ordinate the entire process of distribution of Food Security Allowance.

### 2.39.3 Items provided as Food Security Allowance:

Following table depicts the per child per day norms under Mid-Day Meal Scheme followed for providing Food Security Allowance in 2020-21:-

Stage	Food Grains	Cooking Cost	
		Amount	Ingredients
Lower Primary	100 gram	Rs.4.97/-	20 gram pulse, 50 gram vegetables, 5 gram oil, salt and other condiments.
Upper Primary	150 gram	Rs.7.45/-	30 gram pulse, 75 gram vegetables, 7.5 gram oil, salt and other condiments.

- In case of ingredients in lieu of Cooking Cost, **one egg per week** is to be provided to each eligible child in addition to the ingredients mentioned in the above table. In case of vegetarian children, soya is to be given as a substitute of eggs.



Pilkhana Mikir LPS of Lakhimpur district



Baginadi High School of Lakhimpur district

**2.40 Detailed MME plan along with Annual plan of activities to be undertaken there under:**

<b>Proposed Activity-wise Plan of Action under Management, Monitoring &amp; Evaluation (MME) Component of AWP&amp;B, 2021-22 under Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Schools.</b>		
		<i>[Rs. in lakh]</i>
#	Activity	Allocation of fund
<b>A School Level</b>		
1	Campaign through audio–visual on various aspects on MDMS viz. MDM Rules, 2015, Child Safety, Food Safety, Health & Hygiene, Roles of SMCs/Stakeholders, School Nutrition Gardens, Sampreti Bhojan etc. for awareness generation among the masses.	20.00
2	Providing eating plates and drinking water glasses to the students. [@Rs.150/- per set of eating plate & drinking water glass for the children of 06 districts viz. Kamrup, Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Charaideo, Dima Hasao & South Salmara Mankachar covering 5,97,710 children]	896.57
3	Contingency fund to schools for purchasing broom, cloths, mops, brushes, Hand-wash & detergent and for other essential expenses @ Rs.400/- per school for 53,590 schools	214.36
4	Child-Centric Application for Tracking Nutritional Status of the Children Covered under Mid-Day Meal Scheme	50.00
5	NABL testing of meal samples @1200/- per school for 10 schools per Education Block (145 Education Blocks)	17.40
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>1198.33</b>
<b>B Management, Supervision/ Training /External / Internal Monitoring Evaluation</b>		
6	Remuneration of MDM Staff & Resource Person & implementation of CPF	505.87
7	TA, Office contingency, stationery items and computer consumables, meetings, computer & furniture, hiring of vehicle etc.	92.51
8	Expenditure for data entry into MIS Web Portal (Men days, printing of form etc.)	15.00
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>613.38</b>
<b>Grand Total (A+B)</b>		<b>1811.71</b>

#### 2.41 Any other issues and Suggestions:

- Setting up of School Nutrition Gardens is playing a vital roles in the enhancement nutritional status of the children in the state of Assam , in addressing malnutrition and micro nutrient deficiencies by consumption of freshly grown vegetables, in providing children opportunity to explore first-hand experience with nature and gardening, in reducing the harmful effects of climate change, in lowering immediate temperature of the school area, in making schools visually appealing and also in reducing harmful effects of climate change etc. Schools have been instructed to set up School Nutrition Garden compulsorily in the school premises. No grant for purchasing seeds, tools etc. required for setting up of School Nutrition Gardens is there as on date. However, state has successfully set up School Nutrition Gardens in almost all the schools.

Therefore, a special grant for setting up of School Nutrition Gardens in all schools covered under Mid-Day Meal Scheme may be considered by the Central Govt.

- State has set up dedicated cell for MDMS engaging key functionaries on contractual basis. Present norms for allocation of MME fund under AWP & B needs to be re-considered to enhance the salary of MDM functionaries and also to fill up vacant posts under MDMS at different level vis-à-vis to carry out all essential activities.
- Cook cum Helpers has been paid honorarium of Rs.1,000/- per month for 10 months in a financial year w.e.f. 2010. No enhancement of honorarium is made since 2010. In this context, a number of memorandums have been received from Cook cum Helpers Associations (district units) with the demands for enhancement of their monthly honorarium etc. The common demands are provision for enhancement of monthly honorarium, provision of honorarium to Cook cum Helpers for 12 months, provision of job security, medical, pension, insurance, social security etc. to Cook cum Helpers. Subsequently, Associations have been made frequently stage/dharna in front of the office of State Nodal Officer, MDMS, District Nodal Officer, MDMS, DC's office, Block offices etc. However, The State Govt. of Assam sanctioned an additional amount of honorarium to Cook-Cum-Helpers @Rs.500/- per month for 10 months during 2020-21. At present, the Cook-cum-Helpers of the state have been receiving gross monthly honorarium @ Rs.1500/- per month each since April'2020 for 10 months in a year including GoI approved Central Assistance for honorarium of Cook-cum-Helpers @Rs.900/- per month per Cook-cum-Helpers.  
Central Government is requested kindly to look into the matter sympathetically and enhance the monthly honorarium of CCHs as they are come from weaker section/BPL category.
- Fund @10000/- per year may be sanctioned for Mother Self Help Group as honorarium as they help the Cook-cum-Helpers in preparing and serving MDM and also help the teachers to carry out day to day activities of the MDM Scheme.

- **Additional allocation of funds introducing a new component:**

**Component Name: Egg for Children**

**Scope:**

Many students in Assam come to schools either half-fed or empty stomach due to poverty. National programme of Mid-Day Meal in Schools is playing a major role in the state to fight against hunger of the children. Nutrition level of most of the children is inadequate which calls for taking various initiatives for addressing proper nutrition of the children.

**Egg is one of the best sources of proteins, vitamin A, vitamin C, vitamin D, vitamin B<sub>6</sub>, Iron, Calcium, Cobalamin, Magnesium and essential fats. Hence, it is very vital to provide children with one egg per day.**

**Objectives:**

- To maintain and increase nutrition of the children.
- To safeguard and boost immunity of the children.

**Proposal:**

It is proposed to make provision of 3 eggs per child per week with their Mid-Day Meal. Children may be given one egg with their Mid-Day Meal in every alternate school scheduled day.

- **Proposal for Providing Water Filters in the Schools of Assam:**

**Drinking Water Crisis in Assam:**

Assam is affected by flood every year. This is one of the major causes of scarcity of pure drinking water in some regions of the state. Floods carry with it harmful contaminants such as soil, animal waste, salt, pesticides etc. which can potentially impact drinking water wells and water quality. There are also very few rainwater harvesting systems making the abundant rainfall in the state a waste.

Due to unsafe drinking water sources, there are possibilities of many water borne diseases like diarrhea, dysentery etc. which may affect health of the children which may in turn affect their academic performance. During rainy and monsoon season, water-logging in the school campus or schools becoming submerged under water are common problems in the state of Assam.

**Scarcity of Pure Drinking Water in the Schools of Assam:**

Different sources of drinking water in the schools of Assam are Hand pump, supply water, well etc. Recently, a study on implementation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme in 7 Aspirational Districts of Assam was conducted by the State Nodal Office, MDMS, Assam, engaging a third party named The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). TERI, in its final report, mentioned that in some schools, water is brought from a common drinking water source in the schools. This has a potential to contaminate drinking water and needs to be addressed. Flood and water logging in the school campus are major problems in the state of Assam. In



2019-20, most of the schools were submerged under flood water twice during the year. Obviously, flood and water logging in the school campus add on more difficulties in the availability of pure and safe drinking water for school going children.

**Proposal for Providing Water Filters to the Schools:**

To ensure availability of pure and safe drinking water for the children in the schools covered under Mid-Day Meal Scheme, water filters may be provided to the schools.

Water Filter with gravity-based purification technology that uses hollow fibre hydrophilic UF membrane to kill impurities in the water and also having Activated Carbon Filter for removing odour from water may be provided to the schools covered under Mid-Day Meal Scheme.

**Total tentative budget requirement:**

Two water filters per school for 53,767 schools @ Rs.3,000/- per water purifier.

Total Fund Requirement: Rs.3000/- \* 2\*53,767 = **Rs. 32.26 Crores.**

**Maintenance of Water Filters:**

Schools are provided with annual school grants to meet different requirements and maintenance of the schools on priority basis. Maintenance of water filter will be included in the priority list of the utilization of annual school grants of the schools.

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## School wise information on kitchen gardens

S. No.	Name of District	Name of Block	Name of school	Type of kitchen field (open field, terrace, containers)	Size of kitchen garden (approx. sq mt)	Main produce	Quantity of produce (in Kg)	Participating agencies (KVK, Horticulture Dept., Community, School's own initiative)

**Note : At least three photographs to be uploaded on MDM-MIS portal**