

**west bengal
land & land reforms
officers' association**



**পশ্চিমবং
ভূমি ও ভূমি সংস্কার
আধিকারিক সমিতি**

(Registered under the Societies Registration Act, XXVI 1961)

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Ref : 4 / WBLROA / 2024-25

Date : Kolkata, 6th March, 2024

To
The Additional Chief Secretary
&
The Land Reforms Commissioner
L. & L.R. & R.R. & R. Department
West Bengal

Sub: The work of Agri-census & our Department

Respected Sir,

The Association will like to draw your kind attention to the fact related to the work of Agri-census that our officers & staff are asked to perform year after year.

The task of Agricultural census was designated as the task of our department in WBLR Manual 1991. Probably it was included in our departmental job chart at the time when DLRS used to be the Director of Agriculture also in the colonial era.

This work mandates field visit and noting down the particulars after site inspection. The work is primarily so long being done by the field level staffs namely Amin, BS etc. The last Agricultural census was conducted in 2016 - 17 & was conducted in manual mode.

The department is facing acute shortage of field staffs as there is hardly any recruitment. Amin without whose help the plot cannot be identified has been made a dying cadre and there has been no recruitment in the post of Sub-Surveyor. The Revenue inspectors who are mostly in charge of more than 3 Gram Panchayats hardly have the ability to identify a specific plot solely on his own capability. Gone are the days when almost each and every R.I office had a staff strength of 4 per office and the staff knew his region like his palm.

When the Agricultural census operation was held last time in 2016-17 the errors that occurred were sorted out because the entire operation was carried out manually and 8 years back the staff strength was better than the present.

This time the operation is purely app /web based and is naturally infested with the various technical glitches/ shortcoming that any portal normally faces.

Furthermore, in absence of departmental staffs the enumerators' role was assigned to SGSY group who hardly have any knowledge about the task and they lack accountability. Further, they have very little technical expertise to upload correct inputs in the portal even after field work.

Naturally the work done at enumerator level this time was full of errors and in some case was incomplete also, as in many blocks they deserted the work in between failing to understand what actually they have to do. In most cases the data were fed into the server without any field visit and mere presumption.

The responsibility of such an erroneous data has now been put upon the shoulders of the departmental officers and staffs. Almost every month multiple excel files are being circulated through WhatsApp with direction to rectify the same. It goes without saying that when the Departmental staffs/ officers are struggling hard to perform their normal day to day duties this is becoming a huge burden.

In some districts some Panchayet and Agriculture department staffs were trained as supervisors, master trainers etc but none of them are engaged and the entire onus is now being fixed upon our departmental officers and staffs.

Obviously under such circumstances, it is now necessary to rethink the entire issue. It is proposed that the remaining task of Agricultural census phase 1 be assigned to the Agricultural department officers and staffs and the entire operation of phase 2 be taken up by the staffs and officers of Agricultural department.

The activity of our department may be kept confined only to the Lands belonging to Collector as leaking of vested land database may be detrimental to the Government interest.

Thanking you.

Sincerely yours,



(**Sumit Mukherjee**)

General Secretary

West Bengal Land & Land Reforms Officers' Association

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