

Govt. Of Maharashtra

Environment and Cultural Affairs Department Government Resolution No.: TDS 2019/8/C.N.514/ENVI

Madam Cama Road, Hutatma Rajguru Chowk

Mantralaya, Mumbai – 400 032

Date: 28TH September, 2020

Preface :-

New Tourism Policy has been announced by the Government as per Government Resolution dated 04.05.2016, under this policy the goal is to generate 1 million employment as well as to achieve 15 percent share of tourism sector in gross economy of the state and annually 10 percent income in tourism sector. To achieve this goal, the concept of implementation of rural tourism and agri tourism are included in the policy. In the view of above, agri tourism policy of the state was under consideration.

Government Resolution:-

1) Approximately 55 to 60 percent of the people in the state are directly dependent on agriculture. A definite impetus can be given to agri tourism in rural areas if considered as agricultural allied activity such as horticulture, dairy, goat and sheep farming, poultry, silk industry, apiculture, fishery etc. An approval hereby is given to implement “**Agri Tourism Policy**” as per the meeting dated 6.09.2020 of Hon’ble cabinet ministers for achieving tourism development by creating a well-planned arrangement for farmers to a new agri based business opportunity and to offer urban tourists an experience of staying in the proximity of pollution free nature and peaceful area.

1. Purpose of Agri-Tourism:-

1. Rural development through Agri Tourism and to achieve state development through rural development.

2. To make the market available for agricultural products through Agri Tourism
3. To give encouragement to Agri Tourism being Agricultural Supplementary Business
4. To give stage to folk art and traditions in rural areas
5. To create employment opportunities for rural women and youth in their villages itself
6. Making information available about agriculture and agricultural system as well as agricultural related businesses to people/students in urban areas.
7. To increase the standard of living in rural area through Agri Tourism.
8. To give experience of staying in the proximity of pollution free nature and peaceful environment, to tourists.
9. To give direct experience of working in agricultural field, to tourists
10. To encourage primary process of agricultural goods on the agricultural field
11. Utilization of non fertile, cow grazing and salted lands in rural areas

2. Eligible entities for Agri- Tourism Centre:-

- 1) Individual farmer
- 2) Agricultural Co-operative society of farmers
- 3) Government Recognized Agricultural Science Centre (krishi vigyan kendra)
- 4) Agricultural Colleges (Private and Government)
- 5) Agricultural Universities
- 6) Partnership firms or companies formed by farmers.

3. Mandatory things for Agri- Tourism :-

- i. Agriculture must be the main occupation and tourism should be their supplementary occupation while running an agri tourism centre
- ii. **A Village:** An agri tourism centre should be set up in a village and at a distance of minimum 1 Kilometer from the city (Municipal Corporation, Urban Council, Urban Panchayat)
- iii. **Agricultural Area:** A minimum of 1 acre agricultural land is required for running an agri tourism centre as it is based on and related to agriculture. The area should be minimum 5 Acres where School picnics can be arranged.
- iv. It will be the sole responsibility of the Centre operator for making 24 hour water facility available.
- v. **Farmer:** If a person who runs the agri tourism centre is an individual farmer, then he/she should do the farming activity. It is also necessary that the said agricultural land must be in his/her name or in the name of members of his family. It means 7/12 extracts should be in the name of his family.
- vi. Rooms constructed for living in the agri tourism centre may possibly be eco-friendly. E.g. construction may be done using wood, bamboo, jambha stone etc and sanction by competent authority is necessary.
- vii. It is mandatory to make available meal arrangements, clean drinking water, latrine and other amenities to tourists through the operators of Agri Tourism Centre.
- viii. Minimum one educational picnic/visit must be arranged for the students of standard V to standard X, as mentioned in the tourism policy.

4. Other incidental things (Voluntary things) for an ideal Agri Tourism Centre :-

- 1) The tourism center may be in a peaceful, beautiful and naturally rich place

- 2) At the site of the tourism center, different cropping methods may be adopted simultaneously so that the tourists can experience the diversity of agriculture. E.g. food grains, vegetable, floriculture, plants nursery etc.
- 3) The tourist centre may have home-style, delicious, preferably Maharashtrian food.
- 4) To give an experience of rural life, there can be arrangement for bullock carts, horse carts, horse riding, showing various seasonal works on agriculture.
- 5) In the agri tourism centre, facility of playing rural games like vithidandu, hututu, langadi, jhoka, lagori etc. can be provided.
- 6) In the agri tourism centre, arrangements of rural, and traditional entertainment programmes like powada, gondhal, jagran, gajenrutya, lezim, bhajan-kirtan, adivasi dance etc. may be arranged.
- 7) If tourist spots/attractions like a fort, mountain, lake, rivers, etc. lie in the vicinity of the Agri-tourism center, the operator of the centre may guide the tourists on visiting the attraction.
- 8) Registered Agri Tourism Centre will celebrate 16th May as being “Agri Tourism Day”
- 9) Agri-Tourism Centre may make fresh vegetables, fruits, food grains and other agro based products, available for sale to the tourists.
- 10) It is necessary to put up directional signs by registered agri-tourism centre
- 11) In order to maintain the best quality in the field of agri-tourism, the centre will be inspected every year by the Tourism Directorate.
- 12) Agri-tourism centres will be known as plastic-free sections
- 13) If the agricultural area is small in size, the agricultural activities conducted by the neighbouring farmers can be shown to the tourists, with permission of concerned farmers.

- 14) Information regarding organic farming can be given to tourists on priority
- 15) Materials should be made available to show the local art and culture at the site of the tourism centres.
- 16) Tourism centres may plan for water saving techniques like drip irrigation, sprinkler irrigation etc.
- 17) Priority should be given to solar energy and windmills for power generation.
- 18) The centre operator should have knowledge of Hindi / English language so as to communicate with inter state and foreign tourists.
- 19) Agri-tourism centre operators will give tourists an experience of rural communities/systems like Balutedar, Alutedar, Vasudev, Dombari, Bahurupi etc.

5. Services provided to tourists by Agri Tourism centre:-

An Agri Tourism Centre operator should make available the below mentioned- one or more or all services to tourists along with farming.

A. One day Trip (Day Trip)

B. Residential accommodation

C. Recreational Services (E.g. premises for playing for the children, adventurous activities, rural games etc.)

D. Agricultural Camping (Tent shelter)

E. Orchards and Product Sale Centre (E.g. Orange/Juice of Orange, grapes/Wine, Strawberry/ and items made from Strawberry)

(A) Residential Accommodation: The following table will be applicable for the Agri Tourism Centre that makes residential accommodations available for tourists.

S.No.	Area of Agriculture	Number of Rooms	Dimension of Rooms
1	Up to 02 Acres	04 (Maximum)	Minimum 150 Sq.ft.
2	More than 02 Acres and upto 05 Acres	06 (Maximum)	Minimum 150 Sq.ft.
3	05 Acres and more	08 Rooms and 02 Dormitories having a separate toilet (25 mattresses each)	Minimum dimension of room -150 sq.mtr. Minimum dimension of Dormitory- 700-800 Sq.ft.

- It is necessary to have an attached toilet, bathroom to every room. Construction of the said tourist accommodation may be eco-friendly and it is necessary to take sanction of competent authorities.
- Maximum two dormitories having a capacity of 25 beds can be built for school trips or large groups. But it is mandatory to have a minimum of 5 acres land.
- Permission of Urban Development Department won't be required for construction upto eight rooms and amenities for centre as per the tourism policy. Centres having more than eight rooms will be known as commercial ventures for which the permission of Urban Development Department will be required.

(B) Meal Arrangement and Kitchen: (Obligatory for all types of services)

Registered Agri Tourism centre operator must make meals available to the tourists. The size of the kitchen should be minimum 15'x10' .

(C) It is obligatory to take necessary permissions from all the departments as well as Registration Certificate of Tourism Department for running an Agri tourism Centre.

(D) First Aid Box should be made available 24X7 in the tourism centre to provide immediate medical service.

(I) It is necessary to install fire extinguisher

(F) It is necessary to follow guidelines issued from time to time in the context of Global Pandemic (E.g. Covid-19)

(G) Arrangement of parking space for tourist vehicles as well as good condition approach road should be made available.

6. Some or all activities which can be implemented along with agriculture under Agri Tourism

- 1) Greenhouse
- 2) Dairy
- 3) Fishery business (Fisheries, fish Lake)
- 4) Plants nursery, orchards
- 5) Animal and poultry farming (Poultry, goat farming etc.)
- 6) Nature adventure tourism- Separate permission is required
- 7) Wine Tourism

7. Benefits from the Government for Agri Tourism Centre

- 1) Registration Certificate will be issued to Agri Tourism Centre from the Tourism Department
- 2) Bank loan can be obtained on the basis of Registration Certificate for Agri Tourism Centre
- 3) Benefits such as GST, Electricity Charge (excluding Stamp duty concession) under incentives scheme in Tourism Policy-2016, can be taken

- 4) Priority will be given to Agri Tourism Centre for schemes which are implemented by Water Conservation Department like Shet tale (pond).
- 5) Registered Agri tourism Centres can take advantage of schemes such as green house, orchards, vegetable plantation etc. which are implemented by state and central government
- 6) Domestic gas connection can be used on the basis of Bed and Breakfast scheme wherever home kitchen is used for preparing meal for tourists
- 7) It is under consideration to charge electricity Charges as per residential rate.
- 8) Training and Guidance -Trainings will be conducted for the Agri Tourism Centre operator by experienced instructors on the following subjects:
 - Food safety and cleanliness
 - Hospitality
 - Publicity and Marketing
 - Ideal experience based tourism
 - Best Agricultural Practices
 - Site visit to Ideal Tourism Centres
- 9) Publicity - Under this policy, publicity will be carried out through various mediums for the the agri-tourism centers providing experiential tourism services to the tourists. However, the centre may showcase the optional activities and provide photos and videos of the centre to the Directorate of Tourism. Similarly, registered centres will be publicised on the website of Tourism Department. Links of Agri Tourism centre websites will be made available on the website of State Tourism Department.
- 10) Marketing Management - Private/National marketing arrangements as well as online marketing will be provided by the Department of Tourism

11) As mentioned in Tourism policy -2016, permission of Urban Town Planning Department for construction upto 8 rooms and amenities is not required.

9. Procedure of making Application :

Applications will be made available at the official website www.maharashtratourism.gov.in. as well as in the office of Regional Dy. Director, Directorate of Tourism. Following documents will be required to apply.

- 1) Agricultural Land documents of the Applicants (7/12 extracts, 8A)
- 2) Registration Certificate under different acts for others excluding Individual Farmers (Co-operative Act, Company Act, Partnership Firms etc.)
- 3) Authority letter to make application for Agri-Tourism Centre by firms/trusts registered under different laws
- 4) Aadhar Card/ Pan Card
- 5) Electricity Bill
- 6) Challan copy of the registration fees paid on online system on the website www.gras.mahakosh.gov.in
- 7) Food license under Food Safety Act
- 8) Certificate of construction permission if having Dormitories

10. Registration Certificate Method:

- 1) Verification will be carried out after receipt of Online Application

- 2) Site Inspection will be carried out by Dy. Director, Tourism or officers authorized by them along with the representatives of Agricultural Department
- 3) Registration Certificate will be issued by Dy. Director, Tourism
- 4) If the rules & regulations under the policy are not fulfilled then Dy. Director, Tourism has the right to refuse their registration
- 5) If anything suspicious is observed during regular inspections carried out by the Dy. Director, he/she has the rights to suspend/cancel the Registration Certificate.
- 6) Registration Certificate service will be notified under Public Service Right Act

11. Registration Fee: For first time registration, Rs. 2,500/- fees will be levied for starting an Agri Tourism centre. Registration will be renewed every five years by paying a renewal fee of Rs.1000/

12. Appeal:-

(A) FIRST APPEAL:- The first appeal against the decision given by the Deputy Director, Directorate of Tourism can be made to the Director, Directorate of Tourism, within **15 days**.

(B) SECOND APPEAL: -

The second appeal can be made to the Secretary/Principal Secretary (Tourism) within **30 days** against the decision of the Directorate of Tourism and the decision given by them will remain final.

13. State level Maharashtra Agri Tourism Development Committee

There will be a State Level Maharashtra Agri Tourism and Rural Tourism development committee for canvassing and redressing problems for giving impetus to Agro Tourism in the state as follows:-

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Principal Secretary (Tourism) | President |
| 2. Commissioner (Agriculture) | Member |
| 3. Director (Directorate of Tourism) | Member |

4. Jt. Secretary (Rural Develop Dept)	Member
5. Jt. Secretary (water conservation)	Member
6. 02 expert in Agri-Tourism Sector	Member
7. Dy.Secretary (Tourism)	Member Secretary

Functions of the Committee:

- To take timely review of agri tourism
- Suggest appropriate changes in agri-tourism policy
- Co-ordinate with different departments of Central and State related to Agri Tourism policy
- Research and Development about Agro Tourism
- To suggest different options of financial assistance for making Agri Tourism Centre competent
- Creation of Ideal Agri-Tourism Centre through Agricultural Universities, Agricultural Colleges
- Creating a plan for Skill Development for Agri-Tourism Centre
- To co-ordinate between organizations working on state level as well as divisional level for Agri Tourism and encourage them
- To make efforts to implement successful national/ international level of agri tourism ventures in Maharashtra
- To attract foreign tourists to the agri tourism centre of the state by publicizing widely at the national/ international level
- Participate in national/international level agri tourism related exhibitions, conferences and taking agri- tourism in Maharashtra to national/international level

Said Government Resolution is made available on the website of www.maharashtra.gov.in and their code no. is 202009281712354123. This order is issued by Attesting Digital Signatures.

By the Order and name of the Governor of Maharashtra

Digitally Signed by Ramesh

Jayram Kadam

(R.J.Kadam)

Under Secretary, Govt.of Maharashtra

Copy:

1. Principal Secretary of Hon'ble Governor, Rajbhavan Mumbai.
2. Upper Chief Secretary of Hon,ble Chief Minister, Mantralaya,Mumbai -32.
3. Private Secretary, of Hon'ble Minister (Environment), Mantralaya, Mumbai -32.
4. Private Secretary, of Hon'ble Minister of State (Environment), Mantralaya, Mumbai -32.
5. Private Secretary of all Minister/Minister of State, Mantralaya, Mumbai -32
6. Hon'ble Opposition Leader, Legislative Council, Vidhan Bhavan, Mumbai.
7. Hon'ble Opposition Leader, Legislative Assembly, Mumbai.
8. Hon'ble All Legislative Assembly member, Legislative Assembly.
9. Hon'ble All Legislative Assembly members, Legislative Assembly, Mumbai.
- 10.Hon'ble Chief Secreary, Mantralaya, Mumbai
- 11.Addl.Chief Secretary/ Principal Secretary/ Secretary, All ministerial departments, Mantralaya, Mumbai.
- 12.Principal Account General, Maharashtra-1 (A & E) Mumbai
- 13.Principal Account General, Maharashtra-2 (A & E) Nagpur.
- 14.Principal Account General (Local Body Audit and Account), Mumbai.
- 15.Director, Tourism Directorate, Maharashtra State, Mumbai.

16. Managerial Director, Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation, Mumbai.
17. Selection File, Desk-office- Tourism.