

AGRICULTURE LABOUR WAGES

OBJECTIVE

Information on Agriculture labour wages is essential in order to know the actual position of operation of minimum wage Act. Therefore data on agriculture labour wages are being collected from the selected centres regularly on monthly basis at the instances of Govt. of India, Ministry of Agriculture since 1950 and Directorate of Economics and Statistics.

SELECTION OF CENTRES

For collection of data on agricultural labour wages, 89 centres have been selected & spread over all the sub divisions of all the districts of the state. Centers have been selected keeping in view the agricultural importance and regional balance.

CLASSIFICATION OF LABOURS

The labourers associated with agriculture are broadly classified into skilled & unskilled labour. Carpenter, cobbler, black smith, mason, tube well operator and tractor driver are grouped as skilled labourer as they are partly associated with agriculture work.

Agricultural field laborers, other agricultural field labourers and herds-man are treated as unskilled labourers. Wage rate of these categories are taken into account for **8 working hours** per day. The information of unskilled labours are collected for men, women and children. The hiring charges of different agricultural implements i.e plough with a pair of bullock, tractor, pump set and sprayer **per hour** are also collected from all 89 centres of the state.

SCHEDULES

For collection of Agriculture labour wages data schedule- A(01) & B(02) are used. Sch-A(01) is used for collection of wage rate & hiring charges of above items from all the 89 centres of the state. Whereas sch- B(02) is used for collection of rate of pair of bullocks, buffaloes, rate of agricultural implements i.e wooden plough (big & small), iron plough (big & small), spade, sickle, axe, leveler, cart (big & small). Similarly rate seeds and cow feed per quintal is collected in schedule-02 from all 89 centres regularly on monthly basis.

PERIODICITY

The agricultural year covers from July to June and the information on agricultural labour wages are being collected for each month. The daily wages rates that prevails during the period of collection of data are treated as wage rate for the month.

AGENCY FOR COLLECTION OF DATA

The statistical field personnel working under the administrative control of the Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Odisha have been entrusted with the work of collection of data in the prescribed formats during 2nd week of every month and submitted the filled-in-schedules by the 3rd week to DD, DPMU (Statistics wing) for scrutiny by supervisors dealing with the scheme. Then the scrutinized 01 & 02 schedules are submitted to Directorate of Eco. & Stat. in the **first week of succeeding month**. The data is collected for **all the items** for which the five digit code has already been given in the schedule.

PROCEDURE FOR COLLECTION

At least three cultivators have to be contacted to collect data on wages/ price/costs of each item, if the wages / prices/ costs differ considerably, more nos. of cultivators may be contacted. Data will be collected in every month during the 2nd week of the month. If a particular item was not transacted in the centre or village during the week, the price prevalent in that area may be reported. If no information is forthcoming from the centre or villages, the same may be collected from a nearby market or Govt. Agrl. Farm. In that case, the reason of change of place may be shown in the remarks column of the schedule.

CATEGORIES OF LABOURER FOR WHICH DATA ARE COLLECTED

SKILLED LABOURERS

Carpenter, Cobbler, Blacksmith, Mason, Tube well operator, Tractor driver

UNSKILLED LABOURER

- 1) Agricultural field labour:- The average wage rate of unskilled agriculture field labourers for taking operations like ploughing, sowing and broadcasting, transplanting and reaping & harvesting are collected for men, women and children.
- 2) Other unskilled field labour:- The average wage rate of other unskilled field labour who are engaged in watering the field, carrying loads, digging well, cleaning silt from the field, preparing the embankment & others are collected for men, women and children.
- 3) Herdsman:- The labourer who takes the cattle from the owner's house to the pasture land for grazing in the day time and bring back them to the cowshed in the evening are known as herdsman. They are paid for the service in cash/kinds.

Besides the above, **average rate per hour** of the following items are collected in sch.-01.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| a) Pair of bullock with plough | c) Pump set |
| b) Tractor | d) Sprayer |

After collection of monthly average wage rate/ rate per hour, the data collector has to submit it in district office duly signed by him/her for necessary scrutiny by the district supervisor.

SCHEDULE-B(02)

Schedule-02 contains the following items:-

Cost of Bullock and Buffalo

Information on cost of a pair of bullock and buffalo with standard health and height aged about 3 years and above and capable of doing hard work are collected from selected market.

Cost of Agricultural Implements

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|--|------------------|
| i) Wooden plough and iron plough (big & small) | vi) Yoke |
| ii) Spade | vii) Leveler |
| iii) Sickle | viii) Bida |
| iv) Axe | ix) Bullock cart |
| v) Plough rope | x) Odar |

Besides the above, cost of seeds i.e local & HYV paddy, local & HYV wheat, potato, groundnut, biri, mung, gram, kulthi, horse gram along with cost of cattle feed like rice bran, wheat bran, straw & oil cakes are also collected in sch-02.

Cost of manure, fertilizer, insecticides and pesticides

It is a fact that agriculture operations are still going on in traditional method. The manures used for agricultural operation are cow dung and compost.

Besides the average cost of chemical fertilizer i.e amonium sulphate, super phosphate, calcium ammonium, potash, DAP, Gromor, Bone meal, insecticides, pesticides are collected.

Water Tax and Land revenue

The water rent / tax is collected from the land owners who avails irrigation facility from lift irrigation projects. Land revenue is collected as cess for low, medium and high lands. The land revenue is found different depending upon the category.
