

School Nutrition Gardens

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Source: *PIB & Ministry of Human Resource Development*

A guideline on School Nutrition Gardens has been issued to all states and UTs. It is a place where herbs, fruits and vegetables are grown in the school premises for use in preparation of Mid-Day Meal.

Objectives

1. To help in addressing malnutrition & micronutrient deficiencies by consumption of freshly grown vegetables.
2. To give children first-hand experience with nature and gardening.
3. To enhance the knowledge of children regarding the nutritional aspects of vegetables and the harmful effects of junk food.

Eco clubs in schools

- **The Eco Clubs established in the School shall be headed by the Principal/Headmaster/Head Teacher.** Preferably, two teachers per school and one class in charge will assist in carrying out activities.
- **All the Students, teachers, and parents of the children may be members of Eco Clubs.** The Students Coordinator, in each class may encourage the participation of students.
- The head of the Eco-Club shall be responsible for the execution of the activities of the Club with the help of another Teacher. Plantation activities may be carried out under Eco-Club activities.
- **The Principal / Head teacher may be the team leader for the establishment and maintenance of the School Nutrition (Kitchen) Gardens at the School level** with the help of students, SMC members, and interested persons

from community, etc.

- **Under the 'flexi fund component for innovative interventions' in Mid Day Meal Scheme, an amount of Rs 5000/- per School Nutrition (Kitchen) Garden** may be utilized for purchase of seeds, equipment, compost, etc. on sharing basis between Centre and States & UTs.

A committee under District collector/CEO of Zilla Parishad

A committee may be formed at district level under the chairpersonship of District Collector/CEO of Zilla Parishad with the following members:

- District Collector/CEO of Zilla Parishad -chairperson
- KVK in-charge from the district
- A representative from the forest department
- A representative from Rural Department
- A representative from Agriculture/ Horticulture department
- Child Development Project Officers
- District Education Officer-convenor

The District Magistrate may tie-up with all schools for the setting up of Schools Nutrition(Kitchen) Gardens in every school by converging with concerned local departments, agencies, and experts