

My No. 70-000404
Irrigation Department
Colombo 07
13.01.1989.

HANDING OVER OF DISTRIBUTORY & FIELD CANALS FOR
OPERATION & MAINTENANCE, TO FARMER ORGANISATIONS

Further to my letter of even number of 1988-05-23, the following procedure should be followed in handing over of the already identified channels to the farmer organisations in the irrigation schemes under the INMAS Project. The same procedure should be followed in all other schemes if & when the decision are made to hand over the distributory canals.

01.

01. Turn out attendants who are presently attending to the operation of gates in the selected canals which are handed over should be withdrawn.

02. Turnout attendants should be re-assigned within the rest of the canals not exceeding the norm of one turnout attendant per 500 Ac. If they are in excess, they should be employed elsewhere on maintenance work & if such work is also not available their service should be terminated. However if they belong to the permanent cadre where you do not have the authority in terminating the services such cases should be referred to me to be transferred to places where there are shortages of such employees. All F.E.E should therefore, inform me about the shortages of turnout attendants within the schemes as well.

03. Farmer Organisations should be paid an amount calculated on the following basis for operating the canals that are handed over to them. Amount to be paid per annum.

$$A \times P \times F \times 8$$

500

Where A = Area in acres operated by the farmer organisation.

P = Monthly wage of a turnout attendant computed on the basis of daily casual wage and allowances, for 30 days.

= 0.5 (Factor to take in to account departmental overheads for supervision in the canals handed over & for the operation of the rest of system that will also affect the operation of canals that are handed over)

500 Acs is assumed to be the Departmental norm for turnout Attendant.

This total annual amount is to be paid in two instalments to the farmer organisation for regular payment by them to farmers engaged by them on operation of the canals. As far as possible each payment should be made to the farmer organisation a week prior to the first date of water issue in the ensuing season as decided at the Kanna meeting. If canals handed over to the farmer organisation are not required to be operated during a season due to non-cultivation arising from lack of water for the season, bethma cultivation, canal rehabilitation or any other reason, the I.E. should inform D.D of the Range and Director I.M.D. and the saving of funds for that season can be used by the I.E for his normal work.

Maintenance

- 01. No maintenance other than major repairs to structures should be done by the department in canals that are handed over to the farmer organisation. All other maintenance work will be the responsibility of the farmer organisation.

However any earth filling requiring more than 100 cube of earth in 100' of distributory canal should be costed as a separate work item and cost should be charged to Improvements to water management. Such work can be given on contract to the Farmer Organisation on measurement basis. If the Farmer Organisation does not undertake the work it can be awarded under the normal contract procedures to another contractor. This arrangement of separate costing should be limited to the first two years since such large scale earth work is likely to be of higher priority within a scheme.

- 02. On satisfactory completion of maintenance work, the farmer organisation should be paid an amount calculated on the following basis, for maintaining the distributory canals that are handed over. The first step in working out the allocation to the farmer organisations involves the proportioning (A) of funds for the maintenance of the D channels and F.CC (that are currently maintained by the Dept. in any) handed over.

$$\frac{\text{Total maintenance alloc. for all canals} \times (L_f + 1.5L_d)}{(L_f + 1.5L_d + 2.5L_m)}$$

L_f = Total length of F.CC maintained by the L.D prior to handing over

L_d = Total length of branch channels and D chls. maintained by the I.D prior to handing over

L_m = Total length of Main channels.
1.5 and 2.5 are the weightages adopted in the distribution of allocation for canal maintenance.

Then the amount to be paid annually to the farmer organisation can be calculated by the following expression.

$$\text{Amount to be paid annually} = \frac{L_h \times A_p \times C}{(L_h + L_t)}$$

Where L_h = length of D - canals and F.CC (currently maintained by I.D) handed over to the farmer organisation.

L_t = total length of Branch canals, D - canals & F.CC (maintain by I.D) in the system maintained by the Department after handing over.

C = 0.8
(A factor to account for the retention Deptl. overheads for supervision)

This payment may be made in instalments to the farmer organisation. Agreement should be reached between the Department and the farmer organisation at the Project meeting at the beginning of the year as to the work to be done during each season and the instalment of payment that should be made after the satisfactory completion of the seasons work.

01. At the beginning of the year, I.E should inform the farmer organisation of the amounts available for payments to the farmer organisation for both operation & maintenance of the canals handed over to them, computed as explained above.

02. Farmer organisation should be given technical advice and assistance regarding both the operation & maintenance and their work should be closely supervised.

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03. Participation of T.AA & W.SS in the sub-committees should continue, to ensure a constant healthy dialogue for co-operation, and supervision. The observations by the Department maintenance work done by the farmer organisation should be brought to the notice of the organisation while the work is in progress and rectification required, thus avoiding possibility of a disagreement at the time of after the work has been completed.
 04. The payments for completing the agreed main programme of work by the farmer organisations be made as lump sum payments on the satisfaction completion and after a joint inspection by the farmer organisation. The funds available computation as above out of the income maintenance allocation received by the Department are likely to be much smaller than the value of actually performed by the farmer organisations working on virtually a voluntary basis. The payments made will therefore be only a service payment for the maintenance of the canal rather than an actual payment for the work done.
 05. Any disputes regarding the work that cannot be settled at the field level should be resolved by the Irrigation Sub Committee of the D.A.C.
 06. All payments should be made in favour of the farmer organisation in to their official Bank account. Normal financial regulations pertaining to payments should be followed in making the payments. In regard to the I.E should enter in to service contracts agreement with the farmer organisation signed small scale agreement forms for providing the service on the guide lines stipulated in the circulars No. 26 & 33 of 1986.
 07. Specifications to be used in assessing the quality and standard of work are annexed.

Sgd. Eng. K.D.P. Perera
Director of Irrigation.