

Rice Shoot Policy - 2018

1. SYNOPSIS

Water is key primary input for agriculture and the prosperity of Indian subcontinent has been largely dependent on the weather system called Monsoon since times immemorial . The prosperity attracted invaders/traders and India remained under the yoke of foreigners for Centuries. Post independence a pauperized and famished India faced the challenge of feeding its hungry masses numbering over a quarter billion. The subsequent famines threatened the nation in infancy. Thanks to the leadership of the time India could become self sufficient in food through 'Green Revolution'. At the cusp of the this new idea was born a new state named Haryana. Every opportunity to grow more food was explored and the practice of providing extra water to the paddy growers termed as Rice Shoots during Monsoon was instituted. The practice of providing *extra water* was restricted to a maximum of 30% in *Yamuna Command* and 10% in *Bhakra Command* in excess of the *water allowance* of the respective channels. The Rice Shoots can be allowed after ensuring feeding the tails in the regular system.

Now after over 50 years since creation of Haryana, a new scenario has emerged where Monsoon pattern itself has undergone a sea change besides the fact that demand-supply dynamics of water is acquiring a different narrative altogether. Increase in acreage of *water intensive agriculture*, increased demand from urbanization, increased and ever rising demand from rural areas and demand from industry juxtaposed to decline in rainfall coupled with plummeting water table have rendered the whole paradigm of *water resources regime* as unsustainable. Increased requirements of drinking water in rural and urban areas now require the State to undertake measures to reduce water

consumption in agriculture without compromising on productivity. Rice Shoot Policies of late have been a matter of concern. Those cultivators, who are being benefitted with the rice shoot policy till date, have clandestinely restricted these supplies amongst themselves only which has jeopardized the *principle of equity* and therefore *raison d'être* for the ills associated with this skewed distribution in favor of the haves. A corrective course is thus an impending need of the hour, hence the Rice Shoot Policy 2018 in short RSP-2018.

2. OBJECTS OF RSP- 2018

Rice cultivation in Haryana far exceeds its in-State consumption and the area under rice farming has increased rapidly over the years due to increased access to irrigation from canals and mindless drawl of groundwater due to practice of flood irrigation. Major part of some of the varieties of rice are grown only for exports. Research has established that a kilogram of rice production consumes over 5000 liter of water stretching the logic to the extent that Haryana is indirectly exporting its water instead even at the perils of future generations as *water balance* is severely strained in the State now. The policy intends to serve the larger objective of making the '*water resources regime sustainable*' and ensure '*equity*' in distribution of this *natural resource* necessary to sustain life.

3. BASIC PRINCIPLES OF RSP- 2018

The Rice Shoots in effect over three years are termed as *Traditional Rice Shoots* and fresh allocations are termed as *New Rice Shoots*. No Rice Shoot are to be allowed on any Main Line, Branch Line or Feeder Channel as Government has decided that no outlets of any kind shall be provided on these channels. The Rice Shoots are to be exclusively provided for cultivation of rice. The rice shoots are purely a *temporary arrangement* and its operations are to be governed

by the *Superintending Canal Officer* on specific direction to operate, after approval from the competent authority. The water allowance of such temporary rice shoots in Bhakra command (including Sirsa Branch) as well as WJC Command will be kept as 7.50 Cs per 1000 acres which is about 3 times the normal water allowance of the system.

A. RICE SHOOTS IN BHAKRA COMMAND

The supply from Bhakra reservoir, being a *regulated flow* thus constant, no new rice shoots are allowed in Bhakra Command with the exception that there are some channels in Bhakra Command which receive inflow from Yamuna River and Ghaggar River i.e. Sirsa Branch, Southern Ghaggar Canal (SGC), Northern Ghaggar Canal (NGC) and kharif channels off-taking from river Ghaggar. New Rice Shoots are allowed in such areas as well otherwise there are only traditional rice shoots in Bhakra Command. The Rice Shoot Policy 2018 prescribes that only 10% of the authorized discharge shall be made available for *Traditional* as well as the *New Rice Shoots* in Bhakra Command and governed by the Rice Shoot Table-1 subsequently. Areas where there is incidence of waterlogging and salinity will not be issued any rice shoots, traditional or new. The traditional rice shoots in such problem areas will be stopped forthwith.

B. WESTERN JAMUNA CANAL SYSTEM

Western Jamuna Command is the *rice bowl* of the State and thus highest number of rice shoots, both traditional and new are allowed in this area. *Induced Farm Practices* have brought in large tracts of land where not even a single drop of canal water is available. *Ground Water Regime* in such areas has already become unsustainable and depleting in stores. The RSP-2018 is

intended to set things right. Starting with a maximum of 25% additional discharge during Kharif, the *traditional* and *new rice shoots* shall be allowed strictly as per the RST-1 given in para 4 below.

4. THE RATIONALE OF RSP-2018

The practice of rice shoots has to align with the objects as narrated above. The practice of allowing usage of the natural bounty by a chosen few hitherto has to be discontinued in phases over 5 years from the date of coming into effect of this policy. The excess water available in *Kharif Season* shall be released in the channels to serve the complete command. The following table shall guide the allotment of the Rice Shoots :

RICE SHOOT TABLE (RST-1)

Sr. No.	Year	Bhakra System			WJC System		
		Total Rice Shoots	Traditional Rice Shoots	New Rice Shoots	Total Rice Shoots	Traditional Rice Shoots	New Rice Shoots
1	1 st	10%	5%	5%	25%	20%	5%
2	2 nd	10%	3%	7%	15%	10%	5%
3	3 rd	7%	0%	7%	10%	5%	5%
4	4 th	5%	0%	5%	5%	0%	5%
5	5 th	3%	0%	3%	3%	0%	3%

5. TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR OPERATIONALIZATION OF RSP-2018:

- i) There shall be no shortage of water at the tail when the temporary rice shoots are sanctioned. This is the most important criteria and shall be meticulously followed. No relaxation is to be permitted. All temporary rice shoots allowed on channels where tail is short, shall be cancelled immediately.
- ii) Rice shoots shall not be given on those channels where tails did not get proper and authorized irrigation during the last two years. No rice shoot is to be allowed on channels with discharge less than 10 cusecs.
- iii) The supply to the rice shoot outlets should be made after ensuring authorized full supply to other farmers on regular outlets. The Rice shoots sanctioned by the competent authority be got removed after 30th September and before 7th October each year and the same shall be ensured by concerned Xen.
- iv) No Temporary rice shoots will be sanctioned to the persons found guilty of un-authorized irrigation in past 5 years. In case, however, it is not proved that cut has been made by particular persons (s), temporary rice shoots will not be sanctioned to any of the cultivators of such area.
- v) Minimum area for a temporary rice shoot will be 20 acres, out of which at least 25% of the area for which rice shoots have been sought are to be grown with crop other than rice. An affidavit to this effect shall be submitted by the beneficiaries. Any violation on this account shall render the beneficiaries ineligible to avail the riceshoots in the succeeding years. Such rice shoot(s) shall be immediately withdrawn by the CCO upon the recommendations from the SCO.

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- vi) Traditional rice shoots will have some priority for next 2-3 years as provided in RST-I. For designated percentages draw of lots shall be held amongst traditional rice shoot holders by giving a specified date. For allowing rice shoots in remaining capacity, the draw of lots will be held by considering balance unsuccessful Traditional Rice shoots applications and new rice shoot applications received upto a specified date. The date and time of draw to be given in advance.
- vii) The last date for receipt of applications under the policy for considering sanction of rice shoots will be upto 15th July in 2018 and 1st July in the subsequent years.
- viii) No application for sanction of rice shoots will be entertained without deposit of application fee.
- ix) The applications for old/traditional/new rice shoots shall be filed alongwith a non-refundable fee of Rs. 100/- to be paid at the time of submitting such application. Water Charges @ Rs.300/- subject to a minimum of Rs. 6000/- (as the minimum area fixed for a rice shoot is 20 acres) shall have to be paid. Deposit of fee does not imply sanction of the rice shoots and in case, where *Rice shoots* are not sanctioned, 100% of the Water Charges shall be refunded to the applicants.
- x) Temporary rice shoots will be opened with effect from 25.07.2018 with prior approval of Chief Engineer. However the rice shoot shall be allowed earlier to 25.07.2018 with prior approval of EIC, if there is rain or excess water is available.
- xi) Temporary rice shoots will be allowed to run normally upto 30th September, 2018.
- xii) No rice shoot shall be sanctioned after 31.07.2018 unless minimum of 10 acres have already been sown in the area for which a rice shoot has

been asked for, provided the discharge of rice shoot of a channel does not exceed 10% of its discharge at head and there is authorized water available at the tails.

- xiii) The rice shoots on a Distributory channel shall be governed by RST-1. For example, if the discharge at the head of Distributory is 150 Cs. with the prescribed percentage of 10% discharge then total discharge of the rice shoot shall not exceed 15 Cs. The names of such channels onto which the rice shoots are to be allowed shall have the prior approval of the Engineer-in-Chief.
- xiv) As it is mandatory to grow other crop than rice in at least 25% of area of chak, rates for water charges for such area will be levied for sown crop only.
- xv) In case of joint application from more than one applicant, the rice shoot will be sanctioned in the name of all the applicants. However, if some applicants withdraw voluntarily, the rice shoot for remaining applicants shall be sanctioned provided area left is minimum 20 acres and fulfill all other conditions of rice shoots policy, but no new applicant shall be included.
- xvi) Superintending Engineers are competent to sanction temporary rice shoots(new) as per details in the policy. The concerned Divisional Canal Officer will scrutinize and decide the application of the eligible persons in accordance with the policy approved by the Govt.. He will send all the cases along with the cases which are not considered eligible by him to the Superintending Canal Officer for sanction/decline of a temporary rice shoot. He will also send report specifying reasons why these cases are not eligible.

- xvii). If some of the applicants are not satisfied with the decision of the Divisional Canal Officer about the eligibility of his application, then he will have a right to approach the Superintending Canal Officer before the actual date of draw.
- xviii) After receipt of the recommendations of the Divisional Canal Officer, the Superintending Canal Officer will take decision about the number of temporary rice shoots which can be sanctioned by him on that channel in accordance with the policy approved by the Govt. In case the number of the application exceeds the permissible outlets then he will arrange to decide the cases on the basis of a draw of lots to be held on a day and time to be decided in advance and in accordance with para vi above.
- xix) The list of eligible applicants will be given vide publicity . The draw should be held in presence of at least 4 Gazetted Officers under the Chairmanship of XEN Incharge, XEN Vigilance and 2 Nos. Sub Divisional Officers of Circle (nominated by S.E.) The applicant should also be present during draw, if they so desire . On the basis of draw, temporary rice shoots be sanctioned by S.C.O. as per list finalized by the aforementioned committee on the basis of draw held.
- xx) Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Superintending Canal Officer can challenge the same by filing the representation within one week of the decision before the CCO who will dispose off the same within a week.
- xxi) Rice shoots would be installed judiciously so that their running does not cause any flooding in the area.

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- xxii) Rice shoots shall not be allowed on any channel, where the total availability of water is less than the normal requirement of the off-taking system.
- xxiii) Rice shoots shall not be given on minors and canals where there is a problem of water reaching the tail.
- xxiv) Before processing the case for sanction of rice shoots, a clearance certificate shall be furnished by the beneficiaries from Revenue Department that no abiana is due towards the beneficiaries clearly stating their Killa No. and rectangle No. and thereafter the case shall be processed by Executive Engineer/Superintending Engineer.
- xxv) No field officer of department will allow or recommend rice shoot i.e. Traditional/Temporary/New where Satti paddy (60 days crop) is sown by the Cultivators in the Canal Irrigation area and such type of traditional Rice Shoots be cancelled as Govt. of Haryana has already banned the Satti Paddy (60days crop).

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