

Department of Development

The Department of Development has various branches namely rural development, agriculture, horticulture, seed certification, Intensive Agricultural Development Program (IADP), soil testing & reclamation, animal husbandry and fisheries. The main objective of the department is to provide multi-farious services to the farmers through provision of better scientific techniques/ technology inputs, distribution of subsidy, testing of samples of water and soil, augmenting irrigation facilities, distribution of fertilizers/ manure on nominal rates, treatment (OPD) in various veterinary dispensaries of ailing animals, supply of medicines and vaccines. Modern technical know how is also provided to the individuals belonging to poorer sections and general community in poultry farming.

The Department is headed by a Development Commissioner assisted by a Deputy Development Commissioner, Directors and Wardens of various branches under the Department. The Department has 1,357 sanctioned posts out of which only 1,119 are filled.¹ The main Acts and Rules enforced by the Department are Indian Fisheries Act, 1987 and Punjab Fisheries Act, 1917, Fertilizers Control Order 1957 and 1985, Seeds Act, 1966, and Insecticides Act, 1968.

Services provided by the Department

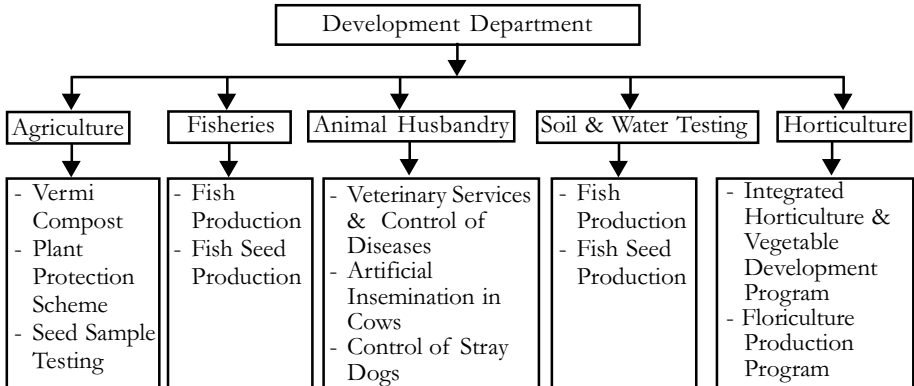
- Rural Development under Integrated Agricultural Development Program works towards development of rural villages through construction of approach and link roads, drainage systems, recreational facilities, cremation grounds and Panchayat Ghars.
- Veterinary services provide services for animals in Delhi that is regulated through Delhi Veterinary Council and monitored by Delhi society for preventions of cruelty through animal board under the Indian Veterinary Council Act, 1984. The services entail treatment of ailing cattle in hospitals, breed improvement, go-sadans, training

of poultry farming and grant in aid to NGOs for proper shelter of stray animals.

- The Department provides a composite service of augmenting fish supply to the people, generating employment for poor fishermen families and recreational facilities to tourists by fish angling. Some of the services are development of fisheries by provision of technical know-how, issuance of fishing licenses to fisherman for fishing in Yamuna and providing quality fish seeds to the fish farmers.
- The Department also provides services to farmers in horticulture which aims to increase production/ productivity of vegetables, maintain ecological balance through plantation, breed ornamental plants and flowers, develop community parks and gardens.
- Agriculture and other allied services are also provided by the Department to the marginal farmers who are cultivating 45000 hectare land in the rural areas around Delhi. It aims to help through fertilizers, subsidy, seed samples, pesticides and other financial assistance.
- The Seed Certification Agency established in 1982 certifies notified kind/ variety of seeds. This is a voluntary programme, which can be availed by any person/ organization willing to undertake the production of certified seeds.
- Intensive Agricultural Development Program (IADP) provides technical know-how on agri-horticultural production, protection of crops from insects pest and diseases, testing of seeds and enforcement of various Acts.
- Soil Testing and Reclamation unit aims at saving soil health for more production after testing soil and water samples.

Schemes and its Procedures

The Development Department as mentioned before has various units that undertake activities and schemes for provision of agriculture and allied services to people. Figure 1 shows a snapshot of the major schemes implemented by the Units of the Department.

Figure 1: Development Departments, its Units and their Schemes

Source: Government of NCT Delhi. 2005. *Annual Plan 2004-05: Physical Targets & Achievements*. Vol. 4. Department of Planning

The procedures of the services provided by the Department are quite unwieldy and exposed to malpractices. Most of them require elaborate licensing or registration process. The system itself creates loopholes for malpractices and corruption. Some of the processes and procedures are discussed below:

▪ **Animal Husbandry Unit**

Treatment of sick animals, surgery, medicine and diagnosis facilities are provided through OPD and referral slips issued by the veterinary polyclinic and hospitals. The unit also conducts awareness programmes for vaccinations and artificial inseminations, training programmes for unemployed youth and guidance to the farmers for animal rearing. X-ray facilities are provided at a cost of Rs 15 to the animal owners in these clinics and hospitals. As required under Section 10 of Delhi Agricultural Cattle Preservation Act, 1994, Delhi Government has established Gosadans through NGOs for maintenance and care of stray and unproductive cattle.

The fisheries unit provides quality strained fish seeds to any farmer at Rs 50 per thousand from government owned fish seed farm at Seelampur in Delhi. It also issues licenses for fishing in Yamuna to any fisherman on daily and annual basis. The license fee ranges from annual fee of Rs 150-300 depending on the fishing area and Rs 3-20 on a daily basis. The form for getting annual license is available online which has to be filled and granted by the Warden for fisheries.

- **Horticulture Unit**

Most of the schemes in this Unit are discharged by the extension staff posted at block levels under the supervision of Block Development Officers, with the help of Horticulture Assistants and seed farm in charges. Some of these schemes are transfer of technology in horticulture, organising Kisan goshties, selling planting materials like seeds and saplings. Allotment of plantation site in the Smriti Vatika in Moti Bagh on payment of Rs 1,150 for each sapling by the public during each planting season is also one of the schemes of the Department.

- **Agriculture Unit**

There are various activities that are undertaken by the Agriculture Unit like providing technical education on growing high yielding crops, financial assistance of Rs 2,500 to SC/ ST farmers and landless labours, supply of vermi compost to farmers at cheaper rates for promoting organic farming, provision of 30 percent subsidy on purchase of fertilizers to small and marginal farmers, as well as grant for manufacturing and dealers' certificate of fertilizers and its sale. They also, as claimed by officials, conduct inspections of wholesalers and draw samples for quality check.

Online forms are available for getting a license of manufacturing fertilisers and becoming a wholesaler dealer of fertilisers. For manufacturing certificate complete application in duplicate in the prescribed form has to be deposited to Controller/ Registering Authority of Fertilizers with a deposit fee of Rs 1,000 per certificate. For renewal of this license, a fee of Rs 100 has to be submitted after three years on expiry of the due date. For Dealer's Certificate, complete application in duplicate in prescribed form has to be submitted Controller/ Registering Authority against deposit of Rs 2,250 for wholesaler and Rs 1,250 for retailer has to be submitted. A renewal fee of Rs 1,250 has to be submitted after three years on expiry of the due date.

- **Seed Certification**

The Unit provides registration of seed certification on submission of application in the prescribed form before or after 10 days of sowing crop with a fee of Rs 25 per application. It also provides field inspections and revalidation of seeds at nominal prices.

▪ **Intensive Agriculture Development Programme (IADP)**

The IADP programme is one of the most comprehensive agriculture programmes implemented by the Department and there are various activities relating to agricultural development that are undertaken by the Department. Application forms for getting certifications, consultation services, sample testing, and renewal of licenses are listed on the website. These services are made available at nominal prices, however knowing the regulatory mechanism prevalent in our country, granting licenses have never been a clean process. The time period of issuance of licenses is claimed to be 15 days, however that remains a point of debate as it varies from case to case.

▪ **Soil Testing and Reclamation Unit**

This Unit provides services related to soil testing for fertility status and water testing for evaluating its suitability for irrigation of different crops. Soil samples are collected by extension staff posted in different blocks and sent to the laboratory for testing. The facilities are provided free of cost except a nominal fee of Rs 20 per sample is charged from farmhouse owners and plots beneficiaries. Testing results given within 10-15 days or earlier in case of samples received by farmers directly.

Financial Profile

The approved outlay of Development Department for the Tenth Five Year Plan 2002-07 is Rs 28 crore with respect to agricultural and allied services. In the Ninth Five Year Plan 1997-2002, the total approved outlay was Rs 29 crore, out of which only Rs 18 crore was spent. The approved outlay and expenditure for all the years in the Tenth Five Year Plan are given in Table 1.

Table 1: Outlays and Expenditure of Development Department (Rs in lac)

Year	Approved Outlay (BE)	Revised Outlay (RE)	Expenditure till February that year	% m.r.t. BE
2002-03	600	470	200	33.3
2003-04	600	511	431.5	72
2004-05	683	637	405	63
2005-06	704		17.03 (August 2005)	2.4

Source: Government of NCT Delhi. 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005. Annual Plan: Plan Outlay and Expenditure. Department of Planning

In 2005-06, Rs 17 lac was spent till August 2005 out of the approved outlay of Rs 700 lac. The Department is also functional in the Rural Development Programme run by the Delhi Government, which is a multi-departmental scheme involving Rural Development Board, Revenue Department (land reforms), Delhi Energy Development Agency and other related departments. The approved outlay to the Development Department under Rural Development Program in 2005-06 is Rs 12 crore, out of which Rs 256 lac has been spent till August 2005².

The Animal Husbandry unit of the Department aims at improving veterinary services and control of contagious diseases in hospitals and dispensaries. The schemes have an approved outlay of Rs 500 lac in 2005-06. The Horticulture unit of the Development Department has an annual approved outlay of Rs 100 lac for 2005-06 for floricultural and vegetable production programme. It aims at expansion of scientific technology to farmers, development of good quality of nurseries, raising seedlings for seed farms and free of cost vegetable kits to farmers. The Fisheries Department has an annual outlay of Rs 7 lac only. The IADP scheme has an approved outlay of Rs 107.5 lac in the Tenth Five Year Plan and Rs 12 lac for 2005-06. The budget estimates and expenditure for various units of the Department is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Budget Estimates and Expenditure of the Department (Rs in lac)

<i>Units</i>	<i>Budget Estimate 2005-06</i>	<i>Expenditure 2003-04</i>	<i>Expenditure 2002-03</i>
Crop Husbandry (Agriculture and Horticulture)	1003	614	696
Animal Husbandry	1131	850	686
Soil and Water Conservation (Including Testing and Reclamation)	41	13	15
Fisheries	48	54	59

Source: Government of NCT Delhi. 2005, 2004. Detailed Demand for Grants 2005-06, 2004-05

The Development Department is also partially responsible for a plan scheme titled "Mini Master Plan for Development of Rural Delhi." This scheme was formulated in 1994 for the development of rural areas of Delhi by creating physical, social, economic and ecological infrastructure in the villages. The scheme envisaged the constriction of

Multi Purpose Community Centres (MPCC) with adjoining shops and kiosks, public parks, primary schools and other recreational facilities. Out of 186 MPCC envisaged, 78 were developed at the cost of Rs 44.81 crore. However 16 of these remain unused since construction for periods ranging from 3-8 years.³

According to the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) in its evaluation study on MPCC concluded that most of them were lying unutilised and have not been provided with any basic facilities like water and electricity. It was envisaged that revenues generated from the license fee of these MPCC from other users would be used to defray the maintenance cost. In April 2000, the Delhi Government decided to stop further construction of MPCC when the Department had already incurred an estimated cost of Rs 5 crore. Out of 62 centres that were constructed, only 42 are functional and are partially used. This is just an example to indicate the improper and wasteful implementation of resources thereby increasing fiscal burden.

Problems and Suggestions

One of the main problems is overlapping administrative jurisdiction and duplication of functions. The Department is divided into six units when a single unit can do the work. According to one of the officials, this is only a political set up to keep the conflicting parties at bay by creating different units and still accommodating them all in one place. There is an urgent need for streamlining the units in the Department. Only three units namely crop husbandry, animal husbandry and Integrated Agriculture Development Programme should exist in the Department. There is a need for rationalisation of functions. Most services should be transferred to appropriate departments rather than creating separate units in the Development Department for discharging these functions. For example, the soil and water testing should be transferred to Pollution Board in order to stop duplication of work and wastage of resources.

The responsibility of the Animal Husbandry Unit should be given to private players or to non-governmental organisations. Works like poultry farming, control of stray dogs, improvement in veterinary services and control of contagious diseases can be done by various

NGOs in the city. The Government can help them through grants, which would not only save lot of government resources but also lead to better management of these services.

Most of the unprofitable and non-viable schemes should be stopped. It is to be understood that the most functions that are discharged by the Department were necessary decades ago and have lost their relevance today. Development of community parks and gardens should be done through public-private participation rather than the full onus on the government. After analysing the schemes and its functions and corresponding financial cost, it can be fairly concluded that the Department is using more resources than the benefits provided to the people.

—Prepared by Susmita Pratibast

Notes

- ¹ Government of NCT Delhi. 2004. *Census of employees of Government of Delhi & Autonomous Bodies*
- ² Government of NCT Delhi. 2005. *Annual Plan 2005-06: Plan Outlay and Expenditure*. Department. Of Planning
- ³ Government of NCT Delhi. 2004. *CAG Report*

References

- Government of NCT Delhi. 2004. *Detailed Demand for Grants 2004-05*
- Government of NCT Delhi. 2005. *Detailed Demand for Grants 2005-06*
- Government of NCT Delhi. 2002. *Annual Plan 2002-03: Plan Outlay and Expenditure*. Department of Planning
- Government of NCT Delhi. 2003. *Annual Plan 2003-04: Plan Outlay and Expenditure*. Department of Planning
- Government of NCT Delhi. 2004. *Annual Plan 2004-05: Plan Outlay and Expenditure*. Department of Planning
- Government of NCT Delhi. 2005. *Annual Plan 2005-06: Plan Outlay and Expenditure*. Department of Planning
- Government of NCT Delhi. 2005. *Annual Plan 2005-06: Physical Targets and Achievements*. Vol. 4. Department of Planning
- Website of the Department of Development <http://development.delhigovt.nic.in/>