

To

Respected Sir,

Sub: Department of Agriculture - Certain errors occurred (Anomalies & Irregularities) during promotions - from Village Agricultural Assistant Gr-II to Agricultural Extension Officer Gr-II - Submitted for necessary action– Request - Regarding

Ref 1: G.O 'S, Relevant information with evidences & Proofs

Ref 2: Grievances submitted to DAO'S but in vain

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With reference to the subject cited above, We the B.Sc.(Ag), M.Sc.(Ag) and Ph.D.(Ag) graduates of the most famous and reputed Acharya NG Ranga Agricultural University accredited by the **Indian Council of Agricultural Research**, who are working as Village Agricultural Assistants in Rythu Seva Kendra's would like to bring to your kind notice about the ERRORS happened during recent promotions in the Department of Agriculture for your kind perusal and request your highness to protect the genuinity of victims

#### **IN GIST ABOUT ISSUE:**

Of late, The District Agriculture Officers as the competent authority of erstwhile districts gave promotions to 454 village agriculture assistants following the memo issued from the Director of agriculture. Immediately the DAO's accomplished the task of promotions in a hurried and unscrupulous manner purely depending on the administrative staff ideology by violating the rules and instructions given by the Director of Agriculture. in due process eligible candidates made as scapegoats by burying the facts and genuineness.

#### **PROCESS INITIATED:**

Initially the memo regarding promotions was given by the then Special Commissioner & Director of Agriculture on 11.03.2024 which is just before the General Elections 2024. But, as the Model Code of Conduct was in vogue, promotions kept on hold with the memo stating that "it shall be taken up based on further instructions from this office after the new government assumes office." Surprisingly, after the formation of the new Government this memo issued again and file moved on war footing basis and finished the process of mega promotions first time in the history of agriculture department gave to 452 members without prior information to the Honourable Chief Minister Sir. (Authorized documents enclosed)

Even this news came as headlines in some newspapers, few famous newspapers like Andhrajyothi, Eenadu etc., etc., wrote articles like some conspiracy, method and procedure lapse and huge amounts of financial transactions have been took place in these promotions.

Immediately we have submitted our representation to the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Sri Kinjarapu Atchannaidu garu and he has endorsed and directed the file to the Director of Agriculture.(copy enclosed)

**Procedure/ Instructions issued by the Director of Agriculture to the DAOs on Promotions:**  
**Dt: 21.10.2024**

1. Initially the DAOs should prepare the provisional seniority list.
2. Call for the objections
3. Reply for the objections made and finalizing the final seniority list.
4. Then, the final seniority list should be displayed and served to each and every VAA.
5. Promotion list and posting orders should be done in e-file.

Unfortunately, the instructions of the director sir also bypassed by the administrative staff simply and followed their own procedure there by misguiding the DAO'S and completed the total process of promotions by threatening the candidates when asked for clarifications.

(News clipping enclosed)

**FACTS:**

**GUNTUR:**

1. The process started from 8<sup>th</sup> October noon and the posting orders were issued over night to candidates at 3.40 am the early hours of 09.10.2024 in a hurried manner .No one knows about the emergency nor no instructions from higher authorities to do so.
2. No written reply for the objections made from the concerned VAA.
3. The key members in the promotion panel gave false information when asked for query
4. Three candidates who went for study against government orders got promoted and three candidates of non ICAR got promotions .So total SIX ELIGIBLE PROFESSIONALS LIVES WERE RUINED here at Guntur.
5. The disgusting is that, there is neither clarification nor answer from the authorities for the GRIEVANCE made which is very ridiculous.

**NELLORE:**

1.In Nellore district, all the DAO office was maintained single handedly by the Junior Assistant Mr. Charan overriding the VAAs by threatening's. (Highly corrupted since 2019)

**Conspiracy:**

Huge amounts of financial transactions took place.

**Consequences:**

Some innocent VAAs even though they are eligible for the said promotions did not get due to anomalies and irregularities done by admin staff. Because of this, these candidates are mentally disturbed and psychologically depressed.

Due to the high handed nature of responsible authorities did not made an attempt to recheck nor did to rectify even though many VAAs insist to pursue the matter. As a result these candidates received/ got threatening and also scolding's from the admin staff of DAO offices. (Enclosed the Names and comments made by such staff)

There are certain anomalies, irregularities, variations and deviations in the DSC exam and promotion channel of Village Agricultural Assistant recruitment process.

**LIKE WISE IN ALL THE DISTRICTS ERRORS ARE NOTICED.....IF GIVEN US THE OPPURTUNITY...WE WILL SUBMIT IN DETAIL SIR.KINDLY ALLOW US**

## **ANOMALIES AND DEVIATIONS NOTICED IN THE DSC VAA Gr-II RECRUITMENT**

### **1. Non-ICAR and Non-ICAR ATMA/BTM:**

As per the VAA notification July, 2019, Non-ICAR candidates were not even eligible for VAA post, but as per VAA corrigendum 09-08-2019 working MPEOs with B.Sc.(Ag) degree from Non-ICAR recognized/ Accredited Universities are eligible to apply as one-time exemption subject to condition that they are eligible for promotion only up to the post of AEO and not eligible for promotion to the post of Agriculture Officer onwards, unless they produce the B.Sc.(Ag) degree from the ICAR accredited universities, which is the deviation of G.O. MS No.1 dated 03-01-2017 orders were issued substituting the words “**recognized by Indian Council of Agricultural Research by the words Accredited by Indian Council of Agricultural Research**” as the ICAR not recognized any college/ University but only accreditate the college/ University and as per GO MS No.79 dated 18-10-2017 government have felt that it is the prerogative and responsibility to prescribe the qualifications and maintain quality assurance in recruitment of Agriculture officers and Agriculture Extension Officers and desires to examine the whole issue in view of pendency of various legal cases before Hon’ble Courts and instructions/modifications from time to time and decided to **cancel the orders issued in G.O.MS No.64, dt 27-07-2017.**

As per Govt Memo.No.AGST-13/9/2016, Agri & Coop. (Agri.1) Dept dt.27-07-2017 orders were issued constituting a **three men committee to verify genuineness of the B.Sc(Ag) certificates produced by all the Agricultural Extension Officers/ Agricultural Officers** who acquired the same from the Non-ICAR Universities outside the state and recruited in the Department of Agriculture and submit a detailed report in the matter. Later the govt issued G.O.Ms.No 65, dt.28-07-2017, it was ordered that the orders issued in G.O.MS.No.64 subject to verification of the genuineness of the certificates by the committee constituted in the Govt.Memo above. In case, **certificates produced are found not genuine**, action will be taken to terminate the individuals from service apart from filing criminal cases against them and also recovery of salaries paid to them by attaching the properties as per rules in force.

Even though district Authorities have not followed the above GOs and Govt.Memos while recruiting VAAs and were given promotion as AEO for non-icar and non-icar ATM/BTM candidates also.

### **2. Violated instructions from the Government on Study Leave :**

Some candidates were recruited and selected as Village Agriculture Assistants with the basic qualification as diploma in Agriculture while they were pursuing 2/3/4 year B.Sc.(Ag) and 1/2 year M.Sc.(Ag) and after joining into the department, they had given representation to avail study leave for completion of B.Sc.(Ag) and M.Sc.(Ag).

The Special Commissioner of Agriculture had forwarded the file Lr.No.A5(1)48/2020, dated 10-02-2020. to the government to accord permission for study leave based on the representation given by the VAAs pursuing degrees.

The Special Chief Secretary to government had issued a memo.no AGC01-AGRI/63/2020 AGRI IV-1 dated 21-04-2020 under clause that the request of VAAs to accord permission to pursue degree in relaxation of rules is not feasible for consideration and hence rejected.

Even though many of the VAAs had gone on EOL, Maternity, Childcare and Medical leaves without permission from the government and completed their degrees and made necessary entries in service register, few of them got promoted as AEO and claiming for further promotions which is a drastic deviation and against the leave sanctioning authorities rules.

### **3. Anomalies in issuing Service weightage marks:**

DAOs then JDAs have not followed the guidelines issued in vide memo no. A5(1)48/2020 by the Commissioner & Director of Agriculture while issuing the service certificates to MPEOs, BTMs & ATMs. Some candidates worked for a few months and taken service certificate for 5 years to get maximum service weightage marks of 15 marks managing the concerned officer. It is necessary to check the genuineness of the service weightage certificates issued to the candidates who got selected as VAA.

### **4. Deviations in following the roster procedure:**

The admin section in the O/o District Agricultural Officer made deviations in the seniority list by placing the required candidates in the promotion list duly not following the roster procedure issued in G.O.MS.No.77.

### **5. Irregularity in Placing ranks in DSC merit list:**

Some of the candidates who were recruited under 10-01-2020 VAA recruitment have been placed in the final seniority list of July, 2019 VAA notification and changed the joining date and rank and issued posting orders.

In Chittoor district, by the display of provisional seniority list objections were submitted by the VAAs, then the admin section of the DAO office considered and replied as in the following manner, that some of the VAAs merit ranks was drastically changed and placed in the absconded or resigned VAA position in an illegal manner so as to claim the promotions which leads to huge loss to the other VAAs. If these objections are not raised by the VAAs the district authorities may follow the faulty procedure by placing required candidates with money which may incur huge loss to service matters of other VAAs lives. So please consider this issue in a serious manner so that other districts also may change the ranking system in their own in an irrational way without any notice.

### **6. Various pending Court Cases regarding VAAs recruitment:**

#### **(i) Case No: WP/16217/2019:**

The High Court may be pleased to issue writ order or direction declaring the impugned action of respondents in denying selection of the petitioners for the post of VAA Gr-II notified in notification 1/2019 dtd. 26.07.2019 by not awarding service weightage marks to the petitioners in spite of certification by concerned authorities thereby selecting candidates with lesser marks than the petitioner's as illegal arbitrary and violates of article 14 & 16 of the Constitution of India. If the

#### **(ii) Case No: WA/434/2022:**

The High Court may be pleased to grant interim direction, directing the respondents to consider the candidature of petitioners for selection to the post of Village Agricultural Assistant (Grade -II) notified vide notification No.1/2019 dt 26-07-2019, in the existing vacancies either in Guntur district or other districts, pending disposal of WA No. 434 of 2022 on the file of the High Court.

Some of the candidates worked as MPEOs, BTMs & ATMs and not selected to the post of VAA as their candidature was not up to the mark of selection due to non-addition of service weightage marks @ 1.5 for every six months period. As the service marks were not awarded to them, 6 members have filed a case in the court. If the judgment comes in favor of those candidates, service marks have to be added so that the rank will be changed and they need to

be placed in seniority list with new ranks in which total final seniority list will be disturbed. Even this issue was in the notice of HOD they have taken up the promotions causing injustice to those candidates and several other candidates.

Not only these, there are various pending legal cases on VAA Gr-II recruitment and service weightage matters and also many legal cases are filed on promotions. If these petitioners may get the favorable judgements the whole scenario of the seniority list will be disturbed.

#### **7. Injustice to Technocrats:**

Everyone claims that, the farmer is the backbone of the Nation who acquires knowledge which is own experience. So to make him technically sound only qualified technical people only can handle such farmers for better production and growth of the Nation.

As the Department of Agriculture is the technical department, only the technically qualified graduates should be given preference to serve the farming community in a better way to overcome the farmer suicides, even though the past govt and HOD treated B.Sc(Ag), B.Sc.Hons(Ag) degree on par with the general degrees and non-technical courses like B.Sc.(BZC), B.Sc.(CA&BM) and B.Sc. degree with Botany as one of the subjects, Bio-technology, B.Tech (Agrl.Engineering from JNTUK) and diploma in Agrl. Engineering from Non-ICAR.

Earlier there was no such huge recruitment like VAA, pooling all the unrelated degrees into the department of Agriculture like no other department made entry for the above non-technical candidates and also giving promotions without proper justification. So it is also a known fact that technical officers at various levels are the backbone of our department and lack of such technical officers may hamper the technology transfer to the farming community.

#### **8. B.Tech and Diploma in Agrl.Engineering:**

Most of the B.Tech. (Agricultural Engineering) and Diploma in Agrl. Engineering candidates are having their degree are from Non-ICAR accredited universities. They are not even eligible for VAA post but promotions were given to such candidates in some districts. Since 4 decades, there is no single post in direct recruitment of AEOs for B.Tech Agrl.Engineering and diploma in Agrl.Engineering however from VAA post they are giving AEO promotions irrationally. B.Tech and Diploma in Agricultural Engineering candidates were also made eligible for AEO promotions even though they are not having technical subjects in their course, as they are unable to serve the farming community in a better way and they will be stagnated in the AEO post only.

#### **9. Only 7% benefited and 93% ruined due to these promotions:**

Due to the present procedure of promotion channel with lot of abnormalities and variations in the cadre and their qualifications, only the present batch i.e 450 out of 6214 VAAs only 7% will be benefited remaining 5764 VAAs will not get promotions in their service or even may retire in the present VAA cadre post only, which is a huge loss to the 93% of VAAs. Even the candidates having graduation in B.Sc.(Ag) may not get promoted to next level and get stagnated by diploma in Agriculture, Agrl.Engineering and B.Tech in Agrl.Engineering candidates as they have to produce B.Sc.(Ag) certificate from ICAR accredited universities. At this juncture, there is a need to create separate promotion channel for B.Sc(Ag) graduates without integrating less qualified people in the same channel.

#### **10. No uniformity in the preparation of Seniority lists:**

Seniority lists are prepared in their own way. No one has followed a proper and similar format. On submission of objections in provisional seniority lists, some districts has mentioned separate columns of DSC marks and MPEO/ATMA service weightage marks and Non-ICAR

candidates in final seniority list but some districts haven't maintained separate columns of DSC and MPEO/ATMA service weightage marks and not mentioned as non-ICAR even they are from non ICAR universities.

Eg: Even after submission of objections to maintain the above format, DAO Erstwhile West Godavari district was not followed and not mentioned as Non-ICAR even though the candidature is from Non-ICAR universities.

### **11. Not reaching minimum qualifying marks:**

It is submitted that, some of the VAAs all over the state were even appointed in pursuance of notification dt 26-07-2019, though they could not get even qualified in the written test, by acquiring minimum qualifying marks prescribed under para 15 of the notification.

OC Category: 40% (i.e 60 marks out of 150)

BC Category: 35% (i.e 52.5 marks out of 150)

The candidates ought not to have been appointed at all, as they are not qualified even after adding 15 bonus marks awarded by government in G.O.MS.No.166 PR & RD dept dt 30-10-20`19.

### **12. Diminishing the term 'Seniority':**

As per the notification July, 2019 para 15, it was clearly mentioned that selection of the candidates for appointment to the posts shall be based on the merit in the OMR based written examination, to be held as per the scheme of examination. Here anywhere in the notification, they didn't mention that merit rank shall be prepared along with the service weightage.

But seniority lists were prepared with DSC marks along with the service weightage marks @ 1.5 marks for every six months of satisfactory service rendered up to maximum of 15 marks are added and this leads to a drastic change in merit rank. By doing this, candidates who are having service weightage got the promotions and **those candidates who have written the exam after hard work are left behind in the promotion list.** So DSC merit should be taken into consideration upto VAA post only but not for AEO promotions as there are variations, anomalies existed in the DSC recruitment process.

Seniority weightage have not taken into consideration in the preparation of seniority lists of VAAs. So candidates who are having less service may retire with in the same post and even can't reach good pay scales in the government service.

Everyone is aware that the new Government is taking necessary steps to build the new system by establishing reforms in all the Departments. Unfortunately the Department of Agriculture continued the same service rules which were framed over the past 4 decades and proceeded with the promotions without proper procedure and justification which may incur huge loss to the B.Sc.(Ag) graduates who came from rural backgrounds and agricultural families to the colleges of ANGRAU with the aim to serve the farming community by adopting new technologies to the farmers that leads to precision farming.

There are many errors in VAA posts notification and every since release. Although the superiors knew all these things, they did not even come towards solving these issues and made G.O.MS.No.35 dated 30-01-2020 and G.O.MS.No.3 dated 29-01-2021 without proper study and led the rest of the process in a vague. Due to this, the lives of 97% of the employees have been ruined.

These are the few things collected and submitted regarding the anomalies, deviations and irregularities found in the whole DSC VAA recruitment process and seniority list prepared with that merit lists in the meantime, without any cooperation of the district authorities. Hence, we request to keep hold the promotions right now and interfere in this issue so that many more irregularities will be revealed.

In light of the above facts, we request your highness to look into the matter and protect the genuinity.

With folded hands we pray for the justice.

Yours faithfully