

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Annual 5% Physical Verification of Beneficiaries

PM-KISAN is a Central Sector Scheme under which financial benefit of Rs 6000/- per year is transferred into the bank accounts of farmers' families across the country, subject to certain exclusion criteria relating to higher income status, through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode. The amount is transferred in three equal installments of Rs 2000/- every four months, viz. April-July, August-November and December-March each financial year.

Process Flow: The farmer can register themselves in this scheme or the States/UTs can register the eligible farmers in this scheme using the PM-KISAN Portal. To register the farmer or the States/UTs are required to provide beneficiary information on the PM-KISAN portal. (providing the Aadhar Card details are mandatory for registration). This beneficiary information is validated at the first stage by PM-KISAN portal, thereafter the details of the beneficiaries are sent to PFMS for account validation. After successful validation of beneficiary information, the beneficiaries are bundled in what is called as 'Lots', which are created by the PM-KISAN central team. These Lots are opened to States/ UTs for verification and closure on the PM-KISAN portal. The States/UTs verify the beneficiary data and close the lots on the portal itself. For every successful closure of one 'Lot' one RFT (Request for Fund Transfer) is generated. The States/UTs are required to provide digital signature of these RFTs. The states may at times also stop payment for farmers who either die, are found ineligible etc. Once, the RFTs are signed FTOs (Fund Transfer Orders) are generated by the PM-KISAN portal. Finally, sanction of the payment is issued by Program Division.

The records rejected at various levels are made available to the States/ UTs in the correction module of PM-KISAN portal for correction. The payment response against each record is then received from PFMS from Banks/NPCI and the same is passed on to PM-KISAN portal.

Problem Statement: As per the Operational guidelines, it has been mentioned that "Efforts should be undertaken by State/UT Governments to ensure checking for around 5% of the beneficiaries for the eligibility during the year." This means that all the States/UTs are expected to physically verify all the beneficiaries randomly who are being paid the benefits every year. This should be mainly done to eliminate any types of hoaxes or fraud beneficiaries from the database.

This process was undertaken by the States/UTs last year, wherein our system faced a lot of challenges in capturing the details of all the farmers who were verified by the States/UTs, the proportion of beneficiaries, who were found ineligible and also the action taken against such ineligible cases. It is important for all the stakeholders to monitor the progress of the respective blocks/districts/States.

In this document, we will discuss in details the process to be followed for conducting annual 5% physical verification of beneficiaries:

1. An online physical Verification Module is developed and provided to all the respective Blocks/Districts/State Users.
2. A report for monitoring the progress of the respective States/Districts/Blocks shall be generated on the portal.
3. A report to monitor the action taken against the ineligible farmers identified during this process shall also be generated on the portal.

Process to be followed for conducting Annual 5% Physical Verification of Beneficiaries

1. Physical Verification Module

The physical verification module at pmkisan portal contains the details of the beneficiaries to be verified by all the States/Districts/Block Users. This module has the list of 5% beneficiaries, who have been paid the installments successfully are selected randomly (simple random sampling) by the system.

Logic to be applied with Example: Consider for instance, a State where 1,00,000 beneficiaries have been successfully paid installments (payment response received, and it is successful) in the year 2020-21. Then, as per the logic 5% beneficiaries means 5000 beneficiaries will be randomly selected (on the basis of simple random sampling) for physical verification. The system will generate the list of 5000 beneficiaries who will be physically verified by the State. This randomly generated list will be equally covering all the districts and blocks. The respective block and district users will be able to see the list of beneficiaries from their respective region, who need to be physically verified.

The module is given with the functionality to submit the Action Taken by the Block/District user against each farmer displayed in the list. For instance, if the farmer has been verified, the user will select – Verified. The next step is to know if the verified farmer was eligible or not, then the user will select eligible/ineligible/death case/opted out.

All such scenarios to be populated in the drop-down menu. If the farmer is eligible, the case is closed and complete. However, if the farmer is found Ineligible, then the reason of ineligibility can be selected from the drop-down provided, after that, the window will direct the user towards the Death/Ineligibility window to make sure that the user marks the respective case as Ineligible/Death and deactivates the record. Followed by this, the functionality should also be provided to ensure that refund is initiated by the State from the identified Ineligible Farmers.

2. Reports

- a. To monitor how many farmers have been verified
- b. To monitor how many have been identified as ineligible/marked in the system/refund initiated

3. Forms and Formats

There is a format for verification to be used by the States, is to be provided in the downloads section. (in my email sent yesterday)

4. The States/ UTs are instructed to complete the process of physical verification with two months from the date of issue of the circular. Till States/ UTs verify the beneficiaries in the list provided for physical verification, those beneficiaries will not be considered for the payments in future lots.
