

Revised Application Documentation: Version 4 /25 May, 2015

QUALIFICATION FILE – CONTACT DETAILS OF SUBMITTING BODY

Name and address of submitting body:

Agriculture Skill Council of India

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Name and contact details of individual dealing with the submission

Name: Ms Priyanka Prakash

Position in the organisation: Manager

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List of documents submitted in support of the Qualifications File

1. Qualifications Pack
2. Industry Engagement Certificate
3. Occupational Map

3. QUALIFICATION FILE SUMMARY

Qualification Title	Agriculture Extension Service Provider		
Body/bodies which will assess candidates	Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI)		
Body/bodies which will award the certificate for the qualification.	Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI)		
Body which will accredit providers to offer the qualification.	Agriculture Skill Council of India (ASCI)		
Occupation(s) to which the qualification gives access	Information Management		
Proposed level of the qualification in the NSQF.	4		
Anticipated volume of training/learning required to complete the qualification.	130		
Entry requirements / recommendations.	12 th Standard Pass preferable.		
Progression from the qualification.	Agriculture Extension Executive		
Planned arrangements for RPL.	RPL assessment will be as per normal ASCI assessment process.		
Formal structure of the qualification			
Title of unit or other component (include any identification code used)	Mandatory/Optional	Estimated size (learning hours)	Level
AGR/N7601 – Plan for the extension services	Mandatory	22	4
AGR/N7602 - Identify location specify of agricultural technology	Mandatory	28	
AGR/N7603 - Make frontline demonstrations	Mandatory	30	
AGR/N7604 – Provide training to farmers	Mandatory	30	
AGR/N7605 – Assist with backward and forward linkages	Mandatory	20	

Please attach any document giving further detail about the structure of the qualification – eg a Curriculum or Qualification Pack.

Give details of the document here:

Qualification of Agriculture Extension Service Provider attached as Annexure 1

SECTION 1

ASSESSMENT

Name of assessment body:

If there will be more than one assessment body for this qualification, give details.

ASCI affiliated assessment bodies.

1. Aspiring Minds Pvt Ltd
2. Anant Learning & Development Pvt Ltd
3. Assess People Services India Pvt Ltd
4. Trendsetters Skill Assessors Pvt Ltd

More Assessment Agencies are being empanelled to cover wider geographical area

Will the assessment body be responsible for RPL assessment?

Yes

Give details of how RPL assessment for the qualification will be carried out and quality assured.

RPL will be based on the same approved Qualification Pack and Assessment Criteria mentioned in the Qualification Pack and will be carried out as per normal ASCI assessment process.

Describe the overall assessment strategy and specific arrangements which have been put in place to ensure that assessment is always valid, consistent and fair and show that these are in line with the requirements of the NSQF:

A robust technology enabled assessment methodology has been designed keeping in mind the geographical/Physical constraints and target segment which assess a trainee's knowledge and skill set through three methods:

- a. An offline Tablet based test through the use of Multiple Choice Text and Picture based questions in vernacular languages
- b. Actual demonstration on the field
- c. Viva

60% score in aggregate of all NOSs, theory and practical has been kept as qualifying criteria for each job role.

ASCI's assessment strategy:

- Question sets are developed as per the weightage of each NOS of the Qualification Pack.
- Assessment criteria for each Qualification Pack developed, in which each Performance criteria (PC) assigned marks based on NOS
- Question Bank is developed to assess the theoretical and practical knowledge. To ensure the quality, each trainees get different set of question
- Empanelment of subject matter expert as assessor primarily from the Industry to assess trainee specifically on practical skills as per Industry demands
- Assessments are preferably conducted on tablets or pen or papers in regional languages according to the requirement.
- Questions are uploaded in the tablets only on the day of assessment
- It is ensured that TP/trainer are not present during assessment

Please attach any documents giving further information about assessment and/or RPL.

Give details of the document(s) here:

Assessment criteria is available at the end of the Qualification Pack (attachment sl.no.1)

ASSESSMENT EVIDENCE

Complete the following grid for each grouping of NOS, assessment unit or other component as listed in the entry on the structure of the qualification on page 1.

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT OF TRAINEES

Job Role: Agriculture Extension Service Provider

Qualification Pack: AGR/Q7601

Sector Skill Council: Agriculture Skill Council of India

Guidelines for Assessment:

1. Criteria for assessment for each Qualification Pack will be created by the Sector Skill Council. Each Performance Criteria (PC) will be assigned marks proportional to its importance in NOS. SSC will also lay down proportion of marks for Theory and Skills Practical for each PC.
2. The assessment for the theory part will be based on knowledge bank of questions created by the SSC.
3. Individual assessment agencies will create unique question papers for theory part for each candidate at each examination/training centre (as per assessment criteria below)
4. Individual assessment agencies will create unique evaluations for skill practical for every student at each examination/training centre based on this criteria
5. To pass the Qualification Pack, every trainee should score a minimum of 60% in aggregate and 40% in each NOS
6. The marks are allocated PC wise; however, every NOS will carry a weight age in the total marks allocated to the specific QP.

Assessable Outcome	Assessment Criteria	Total Marks	Out Of	Marks Allocation	
				Theory	Skills Practical
1. AGR/N7601 – Plan for the extension services	PC1. hold discussions with senior extension officers to plan where the services have to be provided	30	2	1	1
	PC2. take inputs from senior extension officers on what type of training should be provided in the area chosen		1	1	0
	PC3. take inputs on what technologies would be appropriate for the area chosen		1	1	0
	PC4. take inputs on what factors should be considered for providing demonstrations and trainings		1	1	0

	PC5. take inputs on what tools and equipment should be used for providing extension services		1	1	0
	PC6. take internal trainings from subject matter specialists to prepare for providing extension services		1	0	1
	PC7. clarify all doubts in the internal trainings		1	0	1
	PC8. gain mastery over the subject matter		2	1	1
	PC9. understand fully about the new technologies to be demonstrated		2	1	1
	PC10. understand the usage of tools and equipment to be used for extension services		2	1	1
	PC11. prepare to interact with farmers in the area chosen		1	0	1
	PC12. study the socio-economic aspects of the area chosen		3	1	2
	PC13. study the agronomic profile of the area chosen		3	2	1
	PC14. outline the action plan consisting of shortlisted technologies, tools and equipment, training methodologies, etc.		5	3	2
	PC15. decide the date and time when the farmers need to be contacted		2	2	0
	PC16. decide the timeframe of different elements of extension services, such as soil-testing, frontline demonstrations and trainings		2	0	2
	Total		30	16	14
2. AGR/N7602 - Identify location specificity of agricultural technology	PC1. identify the representative group of farmers	45	1	1	0
	PC2. identify other stakeholders in the area such as the sarpanch, district collector etc.		1	1	0
	PC3. reach out to the representative group of farmers as well as the other stakeholders		1	1	0

PC4. discuss the objectives of the exercise	1	1	0
PC5. convince the representative group to participate in the exercise	2	2	0
PC6. hold detailed discussions to assess their needs	2	2	0
PC7. involve the representative group in investigations to find the suitability of the new technology	1	1	0
PC8. list down the problems to be solved	1	0	1
PC9. rank the problems by priority	1	0	1
PC10. identify causes of problems	1	0	1
PC11. list possible solutions	2	0	2
PC12. screen possible solutions for feasibility	2	1	1
PC13. identify experimental factors to be included in on-farm experiments	2	0	2
PC14. use statistically valid experimental designs	2	0	2
PC15. conduct on-farm experiments in the fields of representative farmers	4	2	2
PC16. involve the representative farmers in the experiments	2	2	0
PC17. establish cause-effect relationships	1	0	1
PC18. evaluate the performance and potential application of the new technology / farm practice	2	1	1
PC19. evaluate if the new technology can be applied 'as-is' or if it needs to be refined and modified to be adapted in the local context	1	0	1

	PC20. properly document the results of on-farm testing in a precise, clear and concise manner		2	2	0
	PC21. discuss test results and ideas with the representative group of farmers as well as the other stakeholders		2	2	0
	PC22. use analytical tools to study the findings of on-farm experiments		3	1	2
	PC23. analyse farmers' reactions and opinions		3	1	2
	PC24. use findings for future research		1	0	1
	PC25. use findings for demonstrations on a larger area in the farmers' fields		1	0	1
	PC26. design an action plan which is economically viable, operationally feasible and matching with the needs of the farmers		3	2	1
	Total		45	23	22
3. AGR/N7603 - Make frontline demonstrations	PC1. know the vicinity where demonstrations have to be carried out	90	3	3	0
	PC2. select appropriate and proven technologies to be demonstrated		4	0	4
	PC3. select the block of demonstration site		3	3	0
	PC4. select a group of demonstration farmers who are willing to cooperate		3	3	0
	PC5. finalise package of practices consisting of frontier technologies		6	4	2
	PC6. prepare for demonstrations by arranging critical inputs to be used for the demonstrations		4	2	2
	PC7. guide and assist farmers in laying out the field where demonstrations have to be made		4	0	4
	PC8. hold special training programmes for the farmers in whose plots demonstrations are to be laid		5	3	2

	PC9. be present at the time of crucial farm operations like seeding, fertiliser application, weeding, irrigation, plant protection measures, harvesting, threshing, and weighing of produce and use each of these operations as an input for training of farmers		6	2	4
	PC10. encourage questions from farmers at each stage of the operations		2	0	2
	PC11. arrange a field day to project the new technologies demonstrated in front of a large manageable group of interested farmers		4	0	4
	PC12. plan the field day when the crop is fully matured and ready for harvest		4	2	2
	PC13. arrange a few method demonstrations on operation of farm machines and equipment, operation of seed drill, seed treatment, fertiliser application, plant protection etc.		6	2	4
	PC14. arrange harvesting in the presence of identified group of farmers and ask them to estimate the yield to see the results of demonstrated technologies		6	3	3
	PC15. assess satisfaction level of the farmers		4	0	4
	PC16. provide information reinforcement, timely supply of inputs and / or on-the-spot guidance to ensure that farmers don't revert to old practices		6	3	3
	PC17. link the follow-up programme with the local institutions like farmer club, farmers cooperative society, village panchayat etc.		5	2	3
	PC18. maintain records for each block demonstration		5	2	3
	PC19. maintain an information card with basic information of the demonstration site and detailed information of the demonstration		5	3	2
	PC20. maintain technical report containing information on cost-benefit ratio of the demonstration to help work out the economic returns		5	5	0
	Total		90	42	48
4. AGR/N7604 – Provide	PC1. select technologies / topics on which training has to be provided (could be agriculture as well as allied topics)	90	4	2	2

training to farmers	PC2. select topics which can help farmers with a supplementary source of income	4	2	2
	PC3. select a place where training has to be provided, i.e. farmers' field, training school etc.	4	4	0
	PC4. select a group of farmers to whom training has to be provided	4	4	0
	PC5. arrange necessary inputs required for the training, such as machinery and equipment, black board, leaflets etc.	5	3	2
	PC6. gather the farmers on a specific date and time for the training	2	2	0
	PC7. deliver training modules in a clear and concise manner	10	4	6
	PC8. make the training session interactive and encourage questions from the farmers	4	4	0
	PC9. provide both theoretical as well as practical training	10	5	5
	PC10. assess satisfaction level of the farmers	4	0	4
	PC11. seek feedback after the training session is over	4	0	4
	PC12. note down the feedback so that it helps with further refinement and development of the training program	1	0	1
	PC13. follow up with the farmers to ensure whether are following the new practices taught	8	0	8
	PC14. follow up with the farmers to assess the benefits they received from the training program	8	0	8
	PC15. maintain records of all training programs delivered	5	2	3
	PC16. maintain details of feedback received and action taken	4	4	0
	PC17. document the benefits received by farmers from the trainings	4	4	0

	PC18. document challenges faced during the training programmes		5	5	0
	Total		90	45	45
5. AGR/N7605 – Assist with backward and forward linkages	PC1. help arrange critical inputs like seed, fertilizers, pesticides etc.	45	10	6	4
	PC2. assist in arranging inputs at an optimum cost		4	4	0
	PC3. assist in arranging high quality inputs		4	4	0
	PC4. link the farmers to input providers		5	1	4
	PC5. develop entrepreneurial skills in farmers for selling their produce		6	3	3
	PC6. assist in preparing agri-business plan		6	3	3
	PC7. explain the concept of cash management		4	0	4
	PC8. link the farmers to food industry		6	3	3
			45	24	21
	TOTAL	300	300	150	150

SECTION 2

EVIDENCE OF NEED

What evidence is there that the qualification is needed?

While collecting data from the companies for the occupational map, we also took feedback from industry, training institutions & farmer groups which was collected with respect to roles for which qualification packs development, was to be prioritized. This was largely based on volume of people required, quantitative and qualitative shortfall which the Industry feels they face. Governing council of ASCI and Occupational Standards Committee which comprises of experts & senior leaders gave final approval and endorsement for the same.

What is the estimated uptake of this qualification and what is the basis of this estimate?

It is difficult to estimate uptake of this qualification at this stage as the sector not only is highly unorganized but also no in-depth skill-gap study has been done. The QP has been developed taking feedback from industry for demand though again sample size may not lend to accurate figures. Working closely with NSDA would indicate precise requirements.

What steps were taken to ensure that the qualification(s) does/do not duplicate already existing or planned qualifications in the NSQF?

NSDC list of Approved and Under-Development QPs was checked prior to commissioning the work and also our occupational map/QPs are put on ASCI & NSDC websites.

What arrangements are in place to monitor and review the qualification(s)? What data will be used and at what point will the qualification(s) be revised or updated?

- Any institution / individual is welcome to send feedback, which is recorded and considered during next review cycle.
- Communication will be sent for any feedback to all the main stakeholders/users one month prior to the review of the qualifications pack.
- A formal review is scheduled in one year time

Please attach any documents giving further information about any of the topics above.

Give details of the document(s) here:

SECTION 3

SUMMARY EVIDENCE OF LEVEL

Level of qualification: 4

Summary of Direct Evidence (from learning outcomes):

An Agri-Extension Service Provider has factual knowledge of agri field and demonstrates practical skill using appropriate rule & technology, using quality concepts. He communicates effectively with his manager & the farmers to make front line demonstrations. He has the responsibility for own work & learning.

Agriculture Extension Service Provider					
AGR/ Q7601					
Process required	Professional Knowledge	Professional Skills	Core Skills	Responsibility	Level
The individual is responsible for responsible for speedy transfer of information and technology to farmers. Individual at this job role requires familiar about agriculture Extension Service such as identifying location and planning for extension service, Guidance and actual demonstration on latest technologies related to Agriculture, good agricultural practices (GAP). S/he also works with Experts in Agriculture and develop new methods to advance	The individual needs to have factual knowledge of Agriculture Extension Service which includes addressing the farmers, Guidance and Demonstration, Training, Input Suppliers and Food Industry, Promotion of modern Agriculture Technology, etc.	The individual exhibits practical skills in Guiding and Demonstrating new technologies and Work with experts to work out new methods for increasing the farmers' productivity using appropriate rule & tool. Individual should be able to create motivation and self confidence among farmers.	The individual is required to have good understanding of the social & political environment to deal with farmers of different caste & religion and exhibit logical communication skills to conduct demonstration & Guiding and convincing farmers to adopt modern practices. S/he should have reasonably good mathematical skill for working out the cost benefit ratio of the demonstration and analyze the economic returns. S/he should be good in collecting feedback & assessing satisfaction level of the farmers and track change of farmers' behavior post demonstration/training.	The individual has responsibility for own work & learning in transfer of information and technology from lab to land. They undertake guiding, training, demonstration, etc. They do not work under supervision (as required under Level 3), nor they do have any responsibility for others' work and learning with supervision (as required under Level 5).	4

production.					
Level: 4	Level: 4	Level: 4	Level: 4	Level: 4	

Summary of other evidence (if used):

SECTION 4

EVIDENCE OF RECOGNITION OR PROGRESSION

What steps have been taken in the design of this or other qualifications to ensure that there is a clear path to other qualifications in this sector?

Career path in agri sector is generally in terms of activities done & ownership of responsibility because they are primarily self-wage employment/entrepreneurship roles.

However, there are occupations in the organized segment (Agri Industries) in which career pathway has been identified as illustrated in the Occupational Map attached as Annexure sl.no. 3

Please attach any documents giving further information about any of the topics above.
Give details of the document(s) here: