

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA)

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (MGNREGA) was notified on September 7, 2005.

The mandate of the Act is to provide at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

GOALS

- i) Social protection for the most vulnerable people living in rural India by providing employment opportunities
- ii) Livelihood security for the poor through creation of durable assets, improved water security, soil conservation and higher land productivity
- iii) Drought-proofing and flood management in rural India
- iv) Empowerment of the socially disadvantaged, especially women, Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), through the processes of a rights-based legislation
- v) Strengthening decentralised, participatory planning through convergence of various anti-poverty and livelihoods initiatives
- vi) Deepening democracy at the grass-roots by strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions
- vii) Effecting greater transparency and accountability in governance

MGNREGA with its intersectoral approach opens up opportunities for convergence. The planning and execution of works under MGNREGA can be done in conjunction with Schemes of Ministry of agriculture. The new permissible works under MGNREGA reflected in the expanded list issued in May 2012, can strengthen the synergy with agriculture.