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NOTIFICATION

No. C. 31011/1/2021-DC&MA(M), 26th February, 2021. In pursuance of paragraph 11 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India, the following Rules passed by the Mara Autonomous District Council which received approval of the Governor of Mizoram on 08.02.2021 is hereby published for general information, namely:-

"THE MARA AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT COUNCIL (AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE) SERVICE RULES, 2020."

Sangdingliana, Commr. & Secretary to the Govt. of Mizoram, District Council & Minority Affairs Deptt.

THE MARA AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT COUNCIL (AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE) SERVICE RULES, 2020.

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub–paragraph (7) of paragraph 2 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India, read with clause (h) of sub–paragraph (6) of paragraph 2 of the said Schedule, the Mara Autonomous District Council, with the approval of the Governor of Mizoram, makes the following rules for the constitution of the Mara Autonomous District Council Agriculture and Horticulture Service and for the improvement and regulation of the conditions of service of officers appointed under these rules, namely:–

"The Mara Autonomous District Council (Agriculture and Horticulture) Service Rules, 2020".

Part – I Preliminary

Short title and commencement.

- 1. (1) These rules may be called the Mara Autonomous District Council (Agriculture and Horticulture) Service Rules, 2020.
 - (2) They shall come into force with effect from the date of their publication in the official Gazette.

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Definitions.

- 2. In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires-
 - (i) "Appointing Authority" means the Executive Committee of the Mara Autonomous District Council;
 - (ii) "Constitution" means the Constitution of India;
 - "District" means the Mara Autonomous District as provided in Part–III of the table appended to paragraph 20 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution of India:
 - (iv) "District Council" means the Mara Autonomous District Council;
 - (v) "Executive Committee" means the Executive Committee of the Mara Autonomous District Council:
 - (vi) "Gazette" means the Mizoram Gazette;
 - (vii) "Governor" means the Governor of Mizoram;
 - (viii) "Grade" means any of the grades specified in Schedule–I appended to these rules;
 - (ix) "Member" means a member of the Mara Autonomous District Council Agriculture and Horticulture Service appointed by the appointing authority of Mara Autonomous District Council in accordance with these rules;
 - (x) "Recruitment Board" means the Mara Autonomous District Council Recruitment Board constituted by the Executive Committee of the Mara Autonomous District Council:
 - (xi) "Schedule" means the Schedule appended to these rules;
 - (xii) "Scheduled Tribe" means such tribes as are specified by the President of India under Article 342 (1) of the Constitution of India as modified by law made by Parliament from time to time in so far as the specification pertains to the state of Mizoram,
 - (xiii) "Service" means the Mara Autonomous District Council Agriculture and Horticulture Service;
 - (xiv) "State" means the state of Mizoram;
 - (xv) "Year" means Calendar Year.

Part – II Constitution, Designation, Classification and Strength of the Service

Constitution of the Service.

- 3. (1) There shall be constituted a Service to be known as the Mara Autonomous District Council Agriculture and Horticulture Service.
 - (2) All the officers holding any of the posts mentioned in Schedule–I on regular or substantive basis immediately before the commencement of these rules shall become members of the Service at the initial constitution of this Service:

Provided that-

- (i) all serving Agriculture officers and Horticulture officers presently holding the posts of Agriculture Extension Officer (AEO) or Horticulture Extension Officer (HEO) shall be inducted into Grade–IV (Entry Grade Group 'A' Gazetted) of the Service;
- (ii) all serving Agriculture officers and Horticulture officers presently holding the posts of Assistant Agriculture Officer or Assistant Horticulture Officer in a substantive capacity shall be inducted into Grade–III (Group 'A' Gazetted) of the Service;

- (iii) all serving Agriculture officers and Horticulture officers presently holding the posts of Agriculture Officer or Horticulture Officer in a substantive capacity shall be inducted into Grade-II (Group 'A' Gazetted) of the Service;
- (iv) any serving officer presently holding the post of Senior Agriculture Officer in a substantive capacity shall be inducted into Grade–I (Group 'A Gazetted) of the Service.

Designation.

4. Members of the Service shall, at the commencement of these rules, be deemed to hold the posts mentioned in the Schedule–I at the appropriate grades.

Classification of Service.

- 5. The Service shall have the following grades, namely:-
 - (i) Grade-I (Group 'A' Gazetted)
 - (ii) Grade-II (Group 'A' Gazetted)
 - (iii) Grade-III (Group 'A' Gazetted)
 - (iv) Grade-IV (Group 'A' Gazetted)

Authorized Permanent Strength of Service.

6. The authorised permanent strength of the Service in the various grades on the date of commencement of these rules shall be as specified in Schedule–II which may be determined by the Executive Committee from time to time.

Part – III Recruitment, Qualification and Disqualification

Method of Recruitment.

- 7. (1) Appointment to any post after initial constitution of the Service under rule 3 in the Grade–IV (Entry Grade) of the Service shall be made as under:–
 - (i) 25% by promotion which shall be reserved for officers in the feeder grade having trained in Government recognised Integrated Training Centre (ITC) or Basic Agriculture Training (BAT) and as specified in Schedule–III appended to these rules;
 - (ii) 75% by direct recruitment through the competitive examination conducted by the Recruitment Board from eligible candidates as per Schedule–III appended to these rules.
 - (2) The Recruitment Board shall conduct written examination and interview for selection to the post for direct recruitment in accordance with the syllabus as per Schedule–IV appended to these rules and shall prepare and furnish a list of all candidates recommended for appointment in order of merit to the appointing authority.

Academic Qualification.

8. The minimum academic qualification of a candidate for direct recruitment in the Grade–IV (Entry Grade – Group 'A Gazetted) shall be as per the Schedule–III appended to these rules.

Physical fitness.

- 9. A candidate for direct recruitment shall be:-
 - (i) of sound health both mentally and physically and free from organic defect or bodily deformity likely to interfere with the efficient discharge of his or her duties;
 - (ii) required to undergo medical examination before appointment to the Service.

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Age limit.

10. A candidate for direct recruitment shall not be less than 21 years and not more than 35 years on the first date for receipt of application from candidates:

Provided that the upper age limit may be relaxable by five years in case of candidates belonging to Scheduled Tribe and in respect of candidates belonging to other special categories of person in accordance with general or special order issued by the central or state government from time to time.

Citizenship.

11. No person shall be qualified for appointment to the Service unless he or she is a citizen of India and a permanent resident of the District by birth or descent. For the purposes of this rule, the expression "Permanent resident of the District by descent" shall include a candidate whose parents or any of his or her ancestors in his or her direct lineage is a permanent resident of the District, with a documentary proof like Birth Certificate, enrolment in Electoral Rolls, etc. in support of his or her eligibility.

Disqualification.

- 12. (1) No person-
 - (i) who has entered into or contracted a marriage with a person having a spouse living; or
 - (ii) who, having a spouse living, has entered into or contracted a marriage with any other person, shall be eligible for appointment to the Service:

Provided that the Executive Committee may, if satisfied that such marriage is permissible under the personal law applicable to such person and the other party to the marriage and that there are other grounds for doing so, exempt any person from the operation of this rule and shall be eligible for appointment in the Service.

- (2) The appointing authority may institute such inquiries as it may deem necessary as to the particulars of any candidates in respect of nationality, age, character, conduct, antecedents, etc. and if on the result of such inquiry the opinion of the appointing authority is unsatisfactory in any of these aspects, the candidate may be declared disqualified with intimation to the Recruitment Board.
- (3) No person who attempts to enlist support for his or her candidature directly or indirectly by any means shall be appointed to the Service.

Part – IV Appointment, Confirmation, Seniority and Promotion

Appointment to the service.

- 13. (1) Subject to the provisions of sub-rule (1) of rule 7 of these rules and subject to the availability of vacancies, appointment to Grade-IV (Group 'A' Gazetted) of the Service shall be made by the appointing authority in accordance with the order of names arranged in the list as recommended by the Recruitment Board.
 - (2) A person recruited under clause (ii) of sub–rule (1) of rule 7 of these rules shall join within 30 days from the date of issue of the order of appointment failing which, and unless the Executive Committee extends the period, the appointment shall stand cancelled.

Probation and Confirmation.

- 14. (1) A person recruited to the Service under clause (ii) of sub–rule (1) of rule 7 of these rules shall be on probation for a period of two years, which may be extended for a good and sufficient reason by the appointing authority for a further period as may be determined by the Executive Committee.
 - (2) Where a probationer has successfully completed his or her probation period or any extension thereof to the satisfaction of the appointing authority, he or she may be confirmed in the Service.
 - (3) If during the period of probation referred to in sub–rule (1) of this rule or extension thereof as the case may be, the appointing authority is of the opinion that an officer is not fit for permanent appointment, it may, in consultation with the Recruitment Board, discharge the officer or pass order as deemed fit.

Increment.

15. The first increment due to a member of the Service in revised pay structure shall accrue on the successful completion of the period of probation.

Seniority.

- 16. (1) The seniority of members recruited under clauses (i) and (ii) of subrule (1) of rule 7 of these rules shall be determined by 25% promotion and 75% direct recruits (according to the order of merit as recommended by the Recruitment Board) proportionately on rotation basis and finally approved by the appointing authority in consultation with the Recruitment Board.
 - (2) The seniority inter–se of the members of the Service appointed to any grade at the time of initial constitution shall be as obtained on the date of commencement of these rules:

Provided that if the seniority of any such member has not been specifically determined on the said date, the same shall be determined by the Executive Committee in consultation with the Recruitment Board:

Provided further that if there is any dispute not covered by subrules (1) and (2) above, it shall be determined by the Executive Committee in consultation with the Recruitment Board.

(3) All members of the Service who were substantively appointed in any particular grade in the Service at the initial constitution shall rank senior to all other members temporarily appointed to that grade of the Service under rule 7 of these rules.

Conditions of Promotion.

- 17. (1) All vacancies in Grade–III (Group 'A'. Gazetted) and above shall be filled by promotion by selection as prescribed in Schedule–I.
 - (2) For promotion to Grade–III (Group 'A' Gazetted) i.e. to the post of Assistant Agriculture Officer or Assistant Horticulture Officer, a member of the Service in Grade–IV (Group 'A' Gazetted) should have completed at least 5 years regular service in Grade–IV. 25% of the total strength shall be reserved for promotion from ITC/BAT holders and 75% shall be reserved for B.Sc. in Agriculture or Horticulture Degree holders.
 - (3) For promotion to Grade–II (Group 'A' Gazetted) (i.e. Agriculture Officer or Horticulture Officer, a member of the Service should have completed at least 5 years regular service in Grade–III (Group 'A' Gazetted).

(4) For promotion to Grade–I (Group 'A' Gazetted) i.e. (Senior Agriculture Officer), a member of the Service should have completed at least 5 years regular service in Grade–II (Group 'A' Gazetted) and should be B.Sc. in Agriculture/Horticulture or above holder.

Power of Transfer.

18. Notwithstanding anything contained in these rules, the Executive Committee, in public interest, shall have the right and power to transfer any member of the Service to any other post or position which is equivalent in rank or grade.

Part – V Miscellaneous Provisions

Leave, Pension and other matters.

19. In respect of leave, pension, discipline and other conditions of service not expressly provided for in these rules, the members of the Service shall be governed by the general rules applicable to the District Council employees from time to time.

Retirement.

20. A member of the Service shall retire from service on the afternoon of the last date of the month in which he attains the age of 60 years:

Provided that the member of the Service whose date of birth is the 1st day of the month shall retire from service on the afternoon of the last day of the preceding month on attaining the age of 60 years.

Sponsorship for further Studies.

- 21. Members of the Service may become eligible for sponsorship for undergoing Post Graduate and above studies as the Executive Committee may decide from time to time subject to the following conditions, namely:-
 - (i) after successful completion of the period of probation and confirmation;
 - (ii) completion of 5 years regular continuous service inclusive of the period of probation;
 - (iii) satisfactory performance in the service;
 - (iv) if so required by the District Council and in public interest:

Provided further that members who have already possessed Post Graduate degree in any of the specialties shall not be eligible for sponsorship for any other Post Graduate Studies except to pursue further study in the same discipline.

Power to relax.

22. Where the Executive Committee is of the opinion that it is necessary and expedient to do so, it may, with the approval of the Governor and for reasons to be recorded in writing, relax by order any of the provisions of these rules.

Interpretation.

23. If any question relating to the interpretation of these rules arises, it shall be referred to the Governor, whose decision thereon shall be final and binding.

Repeal and Saving.

24. All rules corresponding to these rules and in force immediately before the commencement of these rules are hereby repealed:

Provided that any order made or action taken under the rules so repealed shall be deemed to have been made or taken under the corresponding provisions of these rules.

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SCHEDULE - I

Method of recruitment, selection for promotion and the minimum qualifying service in the immediate lower grades from appointment/promotion of officers to various grades in the Mara Autonomous District Council Agriculture and Horticulture Service.

SI/ No.	Grade	Name of Posts	Level of Pay Matrix	Method of recruitment	Field of selection and the minimum qualifying service for promotion	
1	Grade–I (Group 'A' Gazetted)	Senior Agriculture Officer	Level 12 of Pay Matrix (Corresponding to PB-3 15600- 39100+7600 GP-Pre- revised)	Promotion by selection	The post shall be filled up from amongst the members of the Service in Grade–II who have rendered at least 5 years regular service in Grade–II and should be B.Sc. (Agriculture/ Horticulture) Degree holder or above.	
2	Grade–II (Group 'A' Gazetted)	Agriculture Officer/ Horticulture Officer	Level 11 of Pay Matrix (Corresponding to PB–3 15600– 39100+6600 GP–Pre– revised)	Promotion by selection	The post shall be filled up from amongst the members in Grade–III who have rendered at least 5 years regular service inGrade–III.	
3	Grade-III (Group 'A' Gazetted)	Assistant Agriculture Officer/ Assistant Horticulture Officer	(Corresponding to PB-3 15600-	Promotion by selection	The post shall be filled up from amongst the members inGrade–IV who have rendered at least 5 years regular service in Grade–IV. 25% of the total strength shall be reserved for promotion from ITC/BAT holders and 75% shall be reserved for B.Sc (Agriculture/Horticulture) Degree holders.	
4	Grade–IV (Group 'A' Gazetted)	Agriculture Extension Officer/ Horticulture Extension Officer	Level 10 of Pay Matrix (Corresponding to PB–3 15600– 39100+5400 GP–Pre–revised)	(a) 25% by promotion	25% of the posts shall be filled up by promotion from Assistant Agriculture Inspector (AAI)/ Senior Gram Sevak having trained in ITC/BAT by selection and as specified in Scheduled-III appended to these rules.	
				(b) 75% by Direct Recruitment	75% of the posts shall be filled up by direct recruitment as and when vacancies occur through the Recruitment Board from amongst the candidates holding B.Sc. (Agriculture/Horticulture) Degree or above from a recognized University and as specified in Schedule–III appended to these rules.	

SCHEDULE - II (See Rule 6)

AUTHORISED PERMANENT STRENGTH OF THE MARA AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT COUNCIL AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE SERVICE

SI/No.	<u>Grade</u>	Name of Existing Posts	Numbers of Posts
1.	Grade-I (Group 'A' Gazetted)	Senior Agriculture Officer	1
2.	Grade–II	Agriculture Officer	1
	(Group 'A' Gazetted)	Horticulture Officer	1
3.	Grade-III	Assistant Agriculture Officer	2
	(Group 'A' Gazetted)	Assistant Horticulture Officer	2
4.	Grade-IV	Agriculture Extension Officer	5
	(Group 'A' Gazetted)	Horticulture Extension Officer	3
			Total 15

The total effective strength of the Service –15

SCHEDULE - III

Minimum Education and other qualifications and particulars required for recruitment to the entry grade in the Mara Autonomous District Council Agriculture and Horticulture Service.

SI/No. Name of Post/Grade

Education and other qualification required ESSENTIAL

 MADC Agriculture & Horticulture Service Grade-IV (Group 'A' Gazetted)

A: FOR PROMOTION

Assistant Agriculture Inspector/Senior Gram Sevak trained in ITC/BAT with 7 years regular service in the grade and Assistant Agriculture Inspector/Senior Gram Sevak having B.Sc. (Agriculture/Horticulture) Degree with 5 years regular service in the grade.

B: FOR DIRECT RECRUITMENT

- (i) He or she must be a citizen of India;
- (ii) He or she must hold B.Sc (Agriculture/ Horticulture)

 Degree or above from a recognized University;
- (iii) He or she must possess a working knowledge of Mara language with at least elementary school standard;
- (iv) He or she must have attained the age of 21 years and must not have completed the age of 35 years: Provided that the upper age limit is relaxable by 5 years for Scheduled Tribe and Person with Disabilities candidates;
- (v) He or she must be a permanent resident of the Mara Autonomous District;
- (vi) He or she must have Basic Knowledge of Computer Application equivalent to Course on Computer Concepts (CCC) of National Institute of Electronics and Information

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Technology (NIELET) or Diploma in Computer Application/Certificate in Computer Application from institutions recognised by Mizoram State Council of Technical Education or such other courses of the level as determined by the appointing authority from time to time.

SCHEDULE - IV {See Rule 7 (2)}

SYLLABUS FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION FOR DIRECT RECRUITMENT TO THE MARA AUTONOMOUS DISTRICT COUNCIL AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE SERVICE OF GRADE-V (GROUP 'A' GAZETTED)

The competitive examination for direct recruitment to the Mara Autonomous District Council Agriculture and Horticulture Service shall consist of a written examination and an interview test. A candidate who does not appear at the examination in one or more of the papers shall be declared as disqualified. Candidates who do not obtain 35% of the total mark in each paper and 40% (in aggregate) in the written examination shall not be qualified for interview. The competitive examination shall be conducted by the Mara Autonomous District Council Recruitment Board in accordance with the following syllabus:

Duration: 3 hour	PAPER – I <u>General English</u>			
	 Grammar Usage and vocabulary Synonyms and antonyms Phrases and idiomatic use of words Essay writing 	- - - -	40 marks 10 marks 10 marks 10 marks 20 marks	
	6. Precis writing	_	10 marks	
Duration: 3 hour	s PAPER – II Mara Reih			100 marks
1.	Grammar	-	25 marks	
2.	Translation	-	10 marks	
3.	Idiom and Phrase	-	10 marks	
4.	Essay	_	25 marks	
5.	History and Culture of Mara	-	10 marks	
6.	Political History and Development of Mara Autonomous			
7.	District Council Advent and works of Christian	-	10 marks	
	Missionaries in Maraland	_	10 marks	

Note: The candidates will have to answer the Mara paper in Mara language except where translation is involved.

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Duration: 3 hours PAPER – III 150 marks

Technical Subject (Agriculture/Horticulture) (Objective Type)

Ecology and its relevance to man, natural resources, their sustainable management and conservation. Physical and Social environment as factors of crop distribution and production. Climate elements as factors of crop growth, impact of changing environments. Environmental pollution and associated hazards to crops, animals and humans. Cropping patterns in different agro–climatic zones of the country, impact of high yielding and short–duration varieties on shifts in cropping pattern. Concepts of multiple cropping, multistory, relay and inter–cropping, and their importance in relation to food production. Package of practices for production of important cereals, pulses, oil seeds, fibers, sugar, commercial and fodder crops grown during Kharif and Rabi seasons in different regions of the country.

Weeds: Their characteristics, dissemination with various crops, their multiplications, cultural, biological and chemical control of weeds.

Soil–physical, chemical, land biological properties. Processes and factors of soil formation, Modern classification of Indian soils, mineral and organic constituents of soil, lands, their role in maintaining of soil productivity. Essential plant nutrients and other beneficial elements in soil and plants. Principles of soil fertility and its evaluation for judicious fertilizer use, integrated nutrient management. Losses of nitrogen in soil, nitrozen fixation in soils. Fixation of phosphorus and potassium in soils and the scope for their efficient use. Problem of soils and their reclamation methods.

Soil conservation: Planning on watershed basis, Erosion and run–off management in hilly, foothills and valley land, processes and factors affecting them, Dry land agriculture and its problems, Technology of stabilizing agriculture production in rain–fed agriculture area.

Water-use efficiency in relation to crop production, criteria for scheduling, irrigations, ways and means of reducing run-off losses of irrigation water. Drip and sprinkler irrigations, Drainage of water logged soils, quality of irrigation water, effect of industrial effluents on soil and water pollution.

Farm Management: scope, importance and characteristics, farm planning, Optimum resources use and budgeting, Economics of different types of farming systems, marketing and pricing of agriculture inputs and outputs, price fluctuations and their cost, types and systems of farming and factors affecting them.

Agriculture extension: its importance and role, methods of evaluation of extension programmes, socio–economic survey and status of big, small and marginal farmers and landless agricultural labourers, farm mechanization and its role in agricultural production and rural employment. Training programmes for extension workers, lab–to–land programmes.

Duration: 3 hours PAPER – IV 150 marks

Technical Subject (Agriculture/Horticulture) (Objective Type)

Seed Technology: its importance. Different kinds of seeds and their seed production, processing techniques, Polyploidy, euploid and aneuploids, Mutation–micro and macro, and their role in crop improvement. Laws of heredity, their significance in plant breeding.

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Application and principles of plant breeding to the improvement of major field crops, Role of biotechnology in plant breeding, Improved varieties, hybrids, composites of various crop plants.

Growth and development: photoperiodism and venalization, Auxins, hormones and other plant regulators, and their mechanism of action and importance in agriculture, physiology of seed development and germination, dormancy.

Climatic requirements and cultivation of major fruit plants, vegetable crop and flower plants, the package of practices and their scientific basis. Handling and marketing problems of fruit and vegetables. Principal methods of preservation of importance fruits and vegetable products, processing techniques and equipment, Role of fruits and vegetables in human nutrition, Raising of ornamental plants, design and layout of lawns and gardens.

Diseases and pests of field vegetables, orchard and plantation crops of India, Causes and classification of plant pests and diseases, Integrated pests and disease management, pesticides, their formulation and modes of action, storage pests and diseases of cereals and pulses and control.

Impact of advanced agricultural technology hazards, its adverse effect, sustainable agriculture, need of hour, organic agriculture system, major aims of organic farming, concept, definition, differences between organic and conventional farming, history and needs of organic farming.

Biodynamic agriculture, organic farming versus biodynamic farming, EM, Principles of biodynamic farming, biodynamic preparation, vermin–composing, methods of organic matter recycling: in situ. ex situ, and biological manuring. Useful and adverse effect of organic farming. Ecological pest management, nitrogen fixing trees, its importance, bio–intensive nutrient management, certification of organic produce.

Viva voce examination (Interview)

: 50 Marks

Viva voca examination (interview) will carry 50 marks. The final result will be base on the total of marks a candidate obtained in the written as well as in the interview. Recommendation shall be made in order of merit for the number of vacancies available.