

# Row settled, NREGA not to affect farming

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After having come to an agreement on the issue that National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) affected availability of farm labour at the time of sowing and harvesting, ministries of agriculture and Rural Development have finally come to an arrangement to work in harmony with each other.

The MoRD will soon issue guidelines so that the Gram Panchayats, at their level, can ensure that they take up NREGA work in a manner that they do not conflict with agricultural seasons.

The truce between the ministries has come after

## AGRI, RURAL MINISTRIES SEAL DEAL

- Citing non-availability of labourers, the agriculture ministry had sought suspension of NREGA during the sowing/harvest time
- The rural development ministry had then rejected it saying a law cannot be put in abeyance
- With the ministries calling for truce, the rural ministry has now issued guidelines to gram panchayats, asking them to ensure that NREGA work is not taken up during the agricultural season

a series of meetings among top officials. The agriculture ministry had earlier sought suspension of the NREGA during the sowing and harvesting seasons, which was, however, rejected by the MoRD on the grounds that a law can not be put in abeyance.

“We have agreed to the view that the concerns of the Agriculture ministry has to be addressed. It has been agreed upon that the MGNREGA should not affect the availability of farm labours at the time of sowing and harvesting seasons,” said a senior MoRD official.