



ODISHA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ADVERTISEMENT NO. 04 OF 2022-23

Recruitment to the post of Assistant Agriculture Officer in Class-II of Group-B of Odisha Agriculture and Food Production Service, under Department of Agriculture & Farmer's Empowerment.

WEBSITE - <http://opsc.gov.in>

Online applications are invited from the prospective candidates through the proforma application to be made available on the Website of the Commission (<http://opsconline.gov.in>). **The link for Online application and Submission shall be available from 29.07.2022 to 29.08.2022 (Note: 29.08.2022 is the last date for submission of Online Application)** for recruitment to **261 (Two Hundred sixty one)** posts of Assistant Agriculture Officer in Class-II of Group-B of Odisha Agriculture and Food Production Service (Methods of Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 2018 and Odisha Agriculture and Food Production Service (Method of Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Amendment Rules, 2020, under Department of Agriculture & Farmer's Empowerment, in the pre-revised scale of pay of Rs.9,300-34,800/- with Grade pay of Rs.4600/- (PB-2) or Level 10 of the Pay Matrix revised, as per ORSP Rules, 2017, with usual Dearness and other Allowances as may be sanctioned by the Government of Odisha from time to time. The posts are permanent and likely to continue.

2. Vacancy Position: As per requisition furnished by the Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment Department of Government of Odisha vide their letter No. 12140/A & FE, dt. 20.06.2022, the vacancy positions are given below:

Sl. No.	Category	No of Vacancies
1	2	3
1	UR	140 (46-w)
2	SEBC	14(05-w)
2	SC	45 (15-w)
3	ST	62 (20-w)
Total		261 (86-w)

Out of 261 vacancies, 10(04-w) posts are reserved for Person with Disabilities whose permanent disability is 40% and more [Hearing Impaired – 05(02-w) & Locomotors Disabilities i.e. OL (MNR) – 05(02-w)], 08 posts are reserved for Ex-SM candidates and 03 (01-w) posts are reserved for Sports Person candidates. Candidates belonging to the categories of Ex-Servicemen, PWD & Sports person shall be adjusted against the categories to which they belong.

The Physical Requirements and Functional Classification of the Persons with Disabilities are mentioned below:-

Physical Requirements	Functional Classification
ST- Work performed by standing. W- Work performed by walking SE- Work performed by seeing H- Work performed by hearing/speaking	OL (MNR)- One leg affected- (Right or Left) Mobility Not be restricted Hearing Impaired (With suitable aid)

NOTE:-

a) In case of non-availability of eligible/suitable Women candidates belonging to the respective categories, the unfilled vacancies of that category shall be filled up by eligible or suitable male candidate(s) of the same category.

b) Exchange of reservation between Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe will not be considered in the non-availability of eligible and suitable S.C. /S.T. candidates.

c) The number of vacancies to be filled up on the basis of this recruitment is subject to change by the Government without notice, depending upon the exigencies of public service at the discretion of the State Government.

3. AGE: A candidate must have attained the age of 21 years on the 1st day of January, 2022 and must not be above the age of 38 years on the 1st of January 2021 i.e. he/she must not have been born **earlier than 2nd January, 1983 and not later than 1st January, 2001.**

The upper age limit prescribed above shall be relax-able up to **05 (five)** years for candidates belonging to the categories of Socially & Economically Backward Class (SEBC), Scheduled Castes (S.C.), Scheduled Tribes (S.T.), Women & Ex-servicemen and **10 (Ten)** years for candidates belonging to PWD category, whose **permanent disability is 40% and more.**

PWD candidates belonging to SEBC, SC and ST categories are eligible for cumulative age relaxation benefit of **15 (Fifteen)** years.

Provided that a person who comes under more than one category mentioned above shall be eligible for only one age relaxation benefit which shall be considered most beneficial to him/her.

SAVE AS PROVIDED ABOVE THE AGE LIMITS PRESCRIBED CAN IN NO CASE BE RELAXED.

Date of birth entered in the High School Certificate or equivalent certificate issued by the concerned Board/Council will only be accepted by the Commission.

4. EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION:

A candidate must have possessed a Degree in Agriculture or Horticulture or equivalent qualification from any University or Institution recognized by any State Government or the Government of India.

5. EXAMINATION FEE: The examination fee has been exempted to all the categories of candidates as per G.A. & P.G. Department Notification No.9897/Gen., dt.11.04.2022.

6. METHOD OF SELECTION:

- (a) The selection of candidates for recruitment to the posts of Assistant Agriculture Officer shall be made on the basis of **Written Test** and **Interview**.
- (b) The detailed syllabus for the examination (Two papers) is at **Annexure-I.**
- (c) i. **Written Test:** - It shall consist of **two papers** of objective types (Multiple Choice Questions) and each paper shall be of **two hours** duration carrying 100 marks each
ii. There shall be **negative marking** for wrong answers with a deduction of 0.25 marks for each wrong answers.
iii. **Interview** shall consist of **25 (twenty five) marks.**
- (d) The Commission shall short-list the candidates to be called for interview to a reasonable number taking into consideration the marks secured in the written test.
- (e) The qualifying marks of written test will be decided by the Commission.
- (f) The Commission shall prepare a list of successful candidates in order of merit on the basis of written test and interview, which shall be equal to the number category wise vacancies advertised.

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- (g) If two or more candidates obtain equal marks, the order of merit shall be determined in accordance with the highest marks secured by such candidates in written examination and in case the marks secured by them in written examination is equal, the order of merit shall be determined in accordance with age.

7. PLACE OF EXAMINATION

The written examination for the post of Assistant Agriculture Officers shall be held at Cuttack. The programme of the examination shall be notified well in advance.

8. OTHER ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS:

- (i) The candidate must be a citizen of India;
- (ii) The candidate must be able to read, write and speak Odia; and have –
(a) passed Middle School examination with Odia as a language subject; or
(b) passed Matriculation or equivalent examination with Odia as medium of examination in non-language subject; or
(c) passed in Odia as language subject in the final examination of Class – VII from a school or educational institution recognized by the Government of Odisha or the Central Government; or
(d) passed a test in Odia in Middle English School standard conducted by the School & Mass Education Department of Government of Odisha/ Board of Secondary Education, Odisha.
- (iii) A candidate, who has more than one spouse living, will not be eligible for appointment unless the State Government has exempted his/her case from operation of this limitation for any good and sufficient reasons;
- (iv) Government servants, whether temporary or permanent, are eligible to apply provided that they possess the requisite qualification and are within the prescribed age-limit as provided under Para-3 & Para-4 of the Advertisement. They must inform their respective Heads of the Office in writing regarding submission of their application for this recruitment and furnish "No Objection Certificate" during document verification.
- (v) If a candidate has at any time, been debarred for a certain period/chance(s) by the Odisha Public Service Commission or other State Public Service Commission or U.P.S.C. from appearing at any examination / viva voce test, he/she **will not be eligible** for such recruitment for that specified period / chance(s);
- (vi) **Only those candidates, who possess the requisite qualifications, are within the prescribed age limit and fulfill other eligibility conditions etc. by the closing date for submission of registered online application form, will be considered eligible;**

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- (vii) A candidate who claims change in his/her name after having passed the H.S.C. examination, is required to furnish copy of publication of the changed name in the local leading daily newspaper as well as copy of notification in the Gazette in support of his/her change of name;
- (viii) Every candidate selected for appointment shall be examined by the Medical Board. A candidate, who does not satisfy the requirement after medical examination, shall not be appointed;

9. IMPORTANT POINTS:

- (i) **Online applications submitted to OPSC, if found to be incomplete in any respect, are liable for rejection without entertaining any correspondence with the applicants on that score;**
- (ii) **Admission to Examination/ Viva Voce test will be provisional. If on verification at any stage before or after the Examination it is found that a candidate does not fulfil all the eligibility conditions, his/her candidature will be liable to rejection. Decision of the Commission in regard to eligibility or otherwise of candidate shall be final;**
- (iii) This advertisement should not be construed as binding on the Government to make appointment;
- (iv) **Concessions meant for SEBC, S.C. & S.T. by Birth are admissible to the Socially Economically Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes of Odisha only;**
- (v) Any misrepresentation or suppression of information by the candidate in the application form will result in cancellation of his/her candidature or penalty, as decided by the Commission shall be imposed on the candidate;

10. CERTIFICATES / DOCUMENTS TO BE ATTACHED:

Candidates who will qualify in the written examination will be required to bring with them the hard copy of online application form along with copies of following relevant certificates/documents and originals of the same for verification of their eligibility as per terms and conditions of the advertisement, the date of which shall be notified later on in due course, failing which his/her application will be rejected for the said post. The candidates are required to mention on each copy of documents "**Submitted by me**" and put their **full signature and date on the same. They must not attach the original certificates to their applications.**

- (i) H.S.C. or equivalent certificate in support of declaration of age issued by the concerned Board/Council.
- (ii) Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture/Horticulture Certificate issued by the recognized Universities or Institutions;
- (iii) Mark-sheets of B.Sc. Agriculture/ B.Sc. Horticulture passed including fail marks if any, issued by the concerned Universities or Institutions;
- (iv) Two recent passport size photographs (unsigned and unattested) with the printout / hard copy of online application form which has been uploaded in the online application forms.
- (v) Any proof of identity;

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- (vi) **Caste Certificate by birth in support of claim as SEBC / SC / ST, wherever applicable (Please see Note: 1);**
- (vii) Required Odia test pass certificate;
- (viii) Disability Certificate (indicating percentage of permanent disability) issued by the concerned Medical Board wherever applicable;
- (ix) If a candidate claims to possess qualification, equivalent to the prescribed qualification, the rule/authority (with number and date) under which it is so treated, must be furnished with the print out/hardcopy of online application form.
- (x) Discharge Certificates of Ex-Serviceman issued by the Commanding Officer of the Unit last served. Ex-Servicemen should submit an affidavit undertaking that he has not been appointed against any civil post after retirement from military service, wherever applicable.
- (xi) Sports Certificate issued by the Director of Sports Odisha; wherever applicable.
- (xii) No Objection Certificate issued by the competent authority.

NOTE 1:

- (i) **Candidates claiming to be belonging to S.E.B.C. / S.C. /S.T. categories of Odisha by birth are required to submit copy of the relevant Caste Certificate issued by the competent authority in the prescribed form. Candidates of SEBC category (other than Creamy Layer) must submit copy of Caste Certificate issued by the competent authority within the last three years by the closing date for submission of online application form in the prescribed form. The SEBC certificate which is more than three years old by the closing date of submission of online application form is liable for rejection.**
- (i) **Women candidates belonging to S.E.B.C. / S.C. / S.T. categories are required to submit Caste Certificates by birth showing "daughter of". Caste Certificates by virtue of marriage (i.e. showing "wife of") are not acceptable and liable for rejection.**
- (iii) **Community (Caste status) once mentioned by the candidates shall not be changed under any circumstances.**

The competent authorities are: - District Magistrate/ Collector or Additional District Magistrate or Sub-divisional Magistrate/Sub-Collectors or Executive Magistrates or Revenue Officers, not below the rank of Tahasildar /Additional Tahasildar of Government of Odisha.

NOTE 2:

Degree Certificate, Caste Certificate, Odia test pass certificate, Discharge Certificate of Ex-servicemen, Sports Person Certificate and Disability Certificate of Person with Disabilities (indicating % of permanent disability), etc. must have been issued by the competent authority within the last date fixed for submission/ receipt of registered online application form.

11. "GROUNDS OF REJECTION OF APPLICATIONS"

Applications of candidates will be rejected by the Commission on any of the following grounds: -

- (a) **Not possessing the requisite qualifications, within the prescribed age limit and fulfilling other eligibility conditions etc. by the closing date for submission of registered online application form.**
- (b) **In-complete online application form.**

- (c) **Non-submission of hard copy of online application form at the time of verification of original documents.**
- (d) **Not passing Odia test (M.E. standard)/not furnishing Odia test pass evidence as required under Para-8 (ii) of the Advertisement.**
- (e) **Not coming within the age limit of candidate as mentioned in Para-3 of the advertisement (Overage relaxation shall not be allowed to P.W.D. candidates with less than 40% permanent disability).**
- (f) **Not having requisite qualification as provided under Para-4 of the advertisement.**
- (g) **Not furnishing copies of certificates/documents as provided under Para - 10 of the Advertisement.**
- (h) **Submission of wrong information / false information about qualification/ Age / Category status (SEBC/SC/ST/PWD/ Ex-Servicemen/Sports Person/Women etc.).**
- (i) **Suppression of facts / information about eligibility, if any.**
- (j) **Any other ground as per the decision of the Commission.**

NB: Application /candidature of a candidate shall be rejected at any stage of recruitment process, whenever discrepancy is noticed/ detected.

12. HOW TO APPLY:

- (a) Candidates must go through the details of this Advertisement available in the Website of OPSC before filling up online application form.
- (b) Candidates must apply online through the concerned Website of the OPSC <http://opsc.gov.in>. Applications received through **any other mode** would not be accepted and summarily rejected.
- (c) **Before filling up the online application form, the candidates must go through detailed instructions available at OPSC portal.**
- (d) The online application form is automated and system driven & will guide the candidate seamlessly in filling the application. The requisite options shall be enabled and information shall be asked as per data furnished by the candidate. Before filling up the information, ensure that accurate information is fed, for edit option is limited & on confirmation there is no scope for further edit, even if wrongful entry has been made while filling up online application.
- (e) Candidates are requested to upload the scanned image of latest passport size photograph along with scanned image of his/her full signature and scanned image of Left-hand Thumb Impression (LTI) in the online application form. Uploaded photograph, Specimen (full) signature and LTI must be clearly identifiable / visible, otherwise the application of the candidate is liable to be rejected by the Commission and no representation from the candidate will be entertained.
- (f) Candidates should keep at least two copies of latest passport size photograph which is uploaded to the online application form for future use.

- (g) *On successful submission of the online Registration, a unique "Permanent Public Service Account Number (PPSAN)" will be assigned to the applicant. Candidates are required to take a printout of the finally submitted online Registration/Re-registration and finally submitted Online Application forms and put his/her signature under the declaration for submission to OPSC along with copies of requisite certificate & documents as and when asked.*
- (h) The candidates are advised to submit the Online Application Form well in advance without waiting for the closing date to avoid the last hour rush.
- (i) Certificate of Admission to the written examination to the eligible candidates will be uploaded in the Website of the OPSC prior to the date of written examination, which will be published in the Website of the Commission and widely circulated Newspapers. The candidates are required to download their Admission Certificate from the Website of the Commission and produce the same at the Examination centre for admission to the written examination. No separate correspondence will be made on this score.
- (j) "Intimation letters" to candidates for document verification & interview and "Attestation form" & "Bio-data form" shall be uploaded in the website of OPSC prior to the date of Document Verification/Interview.
- (k) Any complaint on the conduct of examination must be sent to the Grievance Wing of the Commission by e-Mail (opsc@nic.in) within 03 (Three) days of completion of the examination.

13. **FACILITATION COUNTER :-**

*To resolve any Technical problem faced in filling up of online Registration/ Re-registration and Application forms, candidate may contact OPSC Technical Support **over Telephone No. 0671-2304707 / 2304141** between 10.30 A.M. to 1.30 P.M. & 2.00 P.M. to 5.00 P.M. on any Odisha Government working days.*

*In case of any guidance/information on this advertisement & recruitment, candidates may go through the **FAQ** available in the website of the Commission or contact the O.P.S.C. Facilitation Counter over Telephone No. 0671-2304141/2305611 & Extn.- 227 on any working day between 10.30 A.M. to 1.30 P.M. & 2.00 P.M. to 5.00 P.M.*


The candidates are required to visit the website of the Commission at <http://opsc.gov.in> for detailed information about important notices, rejection of applications, the date & time of written examination, document verification & interview and also keep track of publication of various notices to the effect in the leading local daily newspapers for information.

Closing Dates

- (A) Online application shall be available in the website and can be submitted from 29.07.2022 to 29.08.2022 (11:59 P.M).**
- (B) Those candidates who have applied earlier in response to the Advt. No. 28 of 2021-22 and whose applications have not been rejected vide notice No. 3943/PSC, dt. 27.04.2022, for the aforesaid Advertisement, need not apply afresh.**

NB: - THE ONLINE APPLICATION FORMS IF FOUND DEFECTIVE IN ANY RESPECT, ARE LIABLE TO BE SUMMARILY REJECTED.

PLACE: CUTTACK
DATE : 15.07.2022


SECRETARY
ODISHA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION,
CUTTACK.

Annexure - I

Paper - I - 100 marks- 100 questions (01 mark each)

(Time duration - 02 hours)

Unit - I

<u>Sl. No.</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>No. of questions</u>	<u>Marks allotted</u>
1	Agronomy	12	} 35
2	Farming System & Sustainable agriculture	05	
3.	Principles of organic farming	06	
4.	Crop production technology	12	

Unit - II

<u>Sl. No.</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>No. of questions</u>	<u>Marks allotted</u>
1	Production technology of Horticultural crops (Fruit crops)	07	} 20
2	Production technology of Horticultural crops (Vegetable crops)	08	
3	Production technology of Horticultural crops (Floriculture crops)	05	

Unit - III - Plant Pathology & Microbiology (Disease)

<u>Sl. No.</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>No. of questions</u>	<u>Marks allotted</u>
1.	Field crops	06	} 30
2.	Horticultural crops	04	
3.	Entomology	14	
4.	Nematode pests of horticultural crops and their managements	06	

Unit - IV

<u>Sl. No.</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>No. of questions</u>	<u>Marks allotted</u>
1	Agriculture & Sericulture	03	} 15
2	Agro-meteorology & Climate change	07	
3.	Forestry	05	

Total

100 marks

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Paper – II – 100 marks- 100 questions (01 mark each) (Time duration – 02 hours)

Unit – I

<u>Sl. No.</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>No. of questions</u>	<u>Marks allotted</u>
1	Geoinformatics and Nano-technology	05	} 35
2	Fundamentals of soil science	10	
3.	Soil fertility and nutrient management	10	
4.	Problematic soils and their management	10	

Unit – II

<u>Sl. No.</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>No. of questions</u>	<u>Marks allotted</u>
1.	Principles of seed technology	07	} 25
2	Genetics and plant breeding	11	
3.	Introductory crop physiology	07	

Unit – III

<u>Sl. No.</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>No. of questions</u>	<u>Marks allotted</u>
1.	Fundamentals of agricultural extension education	08	} 30
2.	Agricultural Economics	06	
3.	Fundamentals of Statistical methods	05	
4.	Agri-business management	05	
5.	Agricultural marketing, trade prices	06	

Unit – IV

<u>Sl. No.</u>	<u>Topics</u>	<u>No. of questions</u>	<u>Marks allotted</u>
1.	Agriculture heritage	04	} 10
2	Farmer empowerment schemes	06	

Total

100 marks

N.B. - There shall be **negative marking** for wrong answers with a deduction of 0.25 marks for every wrong answer.