



ODISHA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ADVERTISEMENT No.13 OF 2020-21

Recruitment to the posts of Assistant Soil Conservation Officer in Class-II (Group-B) of Odisha Soil Conservation Service under Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment Department.

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://opsc.gov.in>). The link for registration/re-registration and payment of examination fee shall be available from 23.04.2021 to 24.05.2021 (Note: 31.05.2021 is the last date for submission of Registered Online Application) for recruitment to 92 (Ninety two) posts of Assistant Soil Conservation Officer in Class-II (Group-B) of Odisha Soil Conservation Service under the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment carrying the pay at Level-10 of the Pay Matrix under ORSP Rules, 2017 in consistent with pre-revised scale of Pay under PB-2 – Rs. 9300/- - 34800/- with Grade Pay of Rs.4600/- with usual Dearness and other Allowances as may be sanctioned by the Government of Odisha from time to time. The posts are temporary but likely to be made permanent.

2. VACANCY POSITION: As per requisition filed by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Government of Odisha, the vacancy position along with reservation thereof is given below:

Sl. No.	Category	No. of vacancies
1.	Unreserved	46 (15-w)
2.	SEBC	10 (03-w)
3.	Scheduled Caste	15 (05-w)
4.	Scheduled Tribe	21 (07-w)
	Total	92 (30-w)

Out of the total vacancies mentioned above, **03(three)** posts are reserved for **Ex-Servicemen**, **04 (four)** posts are reserved for **Persons with Disabilities (whose permanent disability is 40 % or more)** and **01(one)** post is reserved for **Sports Persons**. Candidates belonging to the categories of Ex-Servicemen, Persons with Disabilities and Sports Persons shall be adjusted against the categories to which they belong.

Sl. No.	Sub-Category	No. of Posts
1.	Ex-Servicemen	03
2.	Persons with Disabilities OL (R or L) (MNR)	04 (01-W)
3.	Sports Persons	01

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The Physical Requirements and Functional Classification of Persons with Disabilities are given below:

Physical Requirements	Categories of disabled suitable for the job (Functional Classification)
Code - ST, W, SE, H	Code - OL (MNR)
<u>Full forms</u> ST – Work performed by standing W – Work performed by walking SE – Work performed by seeing H – Work performed by hearing/ speaking	<u>Full forms</u> OL – One leg affected (R or L) MNR – Mobility not be restricted

NOTE:

- In case of non-availability of eligible/ suitable women candidate(s), the unfilled vacancies shall be filled up by the eligible/suitable male candidate(s) of the same category.
- The exchange of reservation between Scheduled Caste & Scheduled Tribe will not be considered.
- The number of vacancies to be filled up on the basis of this recruitment is subject to change by Government without notice, depending upon the exigencies of public service at the discretion of the State Government.
- The PWD candidates having a **permanent disability of 40% and more** along with physical requirements of ST, W, SE, H and functional classification of OL (R or L) (MNR) are eligible to apply for the post.

3. AGE:

A candidate must have attained the age of 21 (twenty one) years and must not be above the age of 32 (thirty two) years as on the 1st day of January 2021 i.e. he/she must have been born not earlier than 2nd January, 1989 and not later than 1st January, 2000.

Provided that the upper age limit shall be relaxable by 5 (five) years for candidates belonging to the categories of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Socially and Educationally Backward Classes, Ex-Servicemen and Women and by 10 (ten) years for Persons With Disabilities whose permanent disability is 40% (Forty percent) and more.

Persons with Disabilities belonging to SC/ ST/ SEBC categories are eligible for age relaxation benefit of 15 years.

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.

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4. EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION:

A candidate must have possessed a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture or Bachelor of Science Degree in Horticulture or Bachelor Degree in Agriculture Engineering or Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry from any recognized University or Institutions.

5. EXAMINATION FEE:

A candidate is required to pay a non-refundable and non-adjustable fee of Rs.500/- (Rupees five hundred) only. Candidates belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe of Odisha and Persons with Disability (whose permanent disability is 40% and more) are exempted from payment of this fee.

The candidates are required to make Online payment of applicable Examination Fee(s) through OPSC portal using Debit Card/Credit Card /Net Banking facilities and other financial instruments enlisted in the Payment Page/Gateway of the Odisha Government Treasury Portal. The fee(s) paid shall neither be refunded under any circumstances nor can be adjusted or held in reserve for any other examination or recruitment.

6. METHOD OF SELECTION:

- (a) The selection of candidates for recruitment to the posts will be made on the basis of marks obtained in the **Competitive Recruitment Examination (Written Test & Interview)**.
- (b) The **Written Test** shall comprise of two papers namely **Paper – I & Paper -II** together carrying 200 marks i.e. **100 marks for each paper** which shall be of **Multiple Choice (MCQ) Pattern**.
- (c) The **number of questions** in each paper shall be **100** each carrying **one mark**.
- (d) The duration of examination shall be **one and half hour for each paper**.
- (e) The Commission will **short-list the candidates** to be called for interview to a reasonable number taking into consideration the **marks obtained in the written test**.
- (f) The qualifying marks of the written examination shall be decided by the Commission.
- (g) The Total marks for **Interview/ Viva Voce Test** shall be **25**.
- (h) The details of the examination and **syllabus** is enclosed at **Annexure – A**.

7. PLACE OF EXAMINATION:

The written examination shall be held at Cuttack. It may also be held at Bhubaneswar/ Balasore/ Berhampur/ Sambalpur depending on the number of candidates from the respective zones.

The candidates are to mention their choice of Examination Zone at appropriate place in the online application form.

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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 and Mass Education Department of the 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 & 4 of the Advertisement. They must **submit "No Objection Certificate"** issued by the competent authority **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) A candidate who claims change in his/her name after having passed the High School Certificate Examination or equivalent examination, is required to furnish a copy of publication of the changed name in local leading daily newspaper as well as copy of notification in the Gazette in support of his/ her change of name;
- (vii) **Only those candidates, who fulfil the requisite qualification & are within the prescribed age limit etc. by the closing date of submission of online application, will be considered eligible;**

9. IMPORTANT POINTS :

- (i) **Online applications submitted to OPSC if found to be incomplete in any respect are liable to rejection without entertaining any correspondence with the applicants on that score;**
- (ii) **Admission to the Written Examination / Viva Voce test will be provisional. If on verification at any stage before or after the written examination / viva voce test, 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) Concessions meant for **S.T./ S.C. by birth and SEBCs** are admissible to the Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste and Socially Educationally Backward Classes of Odisha only;
- (iv) **Community / Caste status once mentioned by the candidates under the appropriate box of the online application form will be treated as final and the same shall not be changed subsequently under any circumstances.**
- (v) This advertisement should not be construed as binding on the Government to make appointment;
- (vi) **Any misrepresentation or suppression of information by the candidate in the online application, will result in cancellation of his/her candidature or penalty, as decided by the Commission be imposed on the candidate;**

10. CERTIFICATES/DOCUMENTS TO BE ATTACHED:

Candidates those who are called for the Viva Voce test will be required to bring with them the hard copy of online application form along with copies of certificates, mark sheets etc. and originals of the same for verification prior to the date of Viva Voce test which will be notified later on in due course, failing which he/she shall not be allowed to appear at the Viva Voce test. **The candidates are required to mention on copy of each document "Submitted by me" and put their full signature & date on the same.**

- (i) H.S.C. or equivalent certificate in support of declaration of age issued by the concerned Board /Council;
- (ii) Bachelor of Science Degree Certificate in Agriculture /Horticulture / Forestry & Degree in Agriculture Engineering Certificate from recognized University/ Institutions;
- (iii) Mark-sheets in support of all the aforesaid Examinations passed including fail marks, if any, issued by the concerned Board / Council /University.

NOTE 1:

- (a) **Candidates who have not been awarded percentage of marks, but only "GRADE MARKS", should, along with their applications, produce the conversion certificate from the concerned University indicating the actual equivalent percentage of marks and the conversion formula failing which, their applications are liable to be rejected.**
- (b) **While filling up the marks in the online application form, the candidate has to mention the actual marks secured by him/her in each Semester/Annual examination in the H.S.C, +2, Degree & Bachelors' Degree (excluding the marks secured in the Extra Optional paper).**
- (iv) Two recent passport size photographs (unsigned & unattested) which has been uploaded with Online Application Form.
- (v) Caste Certificate **by birth** in support of claim as S.T./S.C. and S.E.B.C. whichever applicable.
- (vi) Required Odia Pass Certificate from the competent Authority;
- (vii) Permanent Disability Certificate (indicating percentage of permanent disability i.e. **40% and more**);
- (viii) **Ex-Servicemen** are required to attach copy of Discharge Certificate issued by the Commanding Officer of the Unit last served. They must submit an affidavit undertaking that he / she has not been appointed against any civil post after retirement from military service, wherever applicable;

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- (ix) Sports persons Certificate issued by the Director of Sports Odisha;
- (x) No Objection Certificate from the competent authority in case of Government Servant;
- (xi) Any proof of identity.

NOTE 2:

- (i) Candidates claiming to be belonging to S.T. /S.C. / S.E.B.C Category of Odisha by birth are required to submit copy of the relevant Caste Certificate as mentioned in their online application form and 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;
- (ii) The SEBC certificate which is more than three years old by the closing date of submission of online application form is liable for rejection.
- (iii) Women candidates belonging to S.C. /S.T. /S.E.B.C Categories are required to submit Caste Certificates by birth showing "daughter of". Caste Certificates by virtue of marriage (i.e. showing "wife of") will not be accepted.
- (iv) **O.B.C. CERTIFICATES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED IN LIEU OF S.E.B.C. CERTIFICATES AND CANDIDATES SUBMITTING O.B.C CERTIFICATES ARE LIABLE FOR REJECTION.**
- (v) 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 3: Bachelor of Science Degree Certificate in Agriculture, Horticulture, Agriculture Engineering & Forestry, Caste Certificate, Odia Test Pass Certificate, Discharge Certificate of Ex-Serviceman and Permanent Disability Certificate of Persons with Disability (indicating percentage of Permanent Disability), Sports persons Certificate etc. must have been issued within the last date fixed for submission/ receipt of online application form.

11. GROUND OF REJECTION OF APPLICATION:-

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

- (a) In-complete online application form.
- (b) Non-submission of hard copy of online application form at the time of verification of original documents.
- (c) Not signing declaration (full signature) in the hard copy of online application form.
- (d) Not coming within age limit as mentioned in Para-3 of Advertisement (Overage relaxation shall not be allowed to PWD candidates having less than 40% disability).
- (e) Not having requisite qualification as provided under Para - 4 of Advertisement.
- (f) Not furnishing copies of certificates/documents as provided under Para - 10 of Advertisement.
- (g) Not passing Odia Test (M.E. standard) / not furnishing Odia Test pass evidence as required under Para 8 (ii) of the Advertisement.
- (h) Non-payment of examination fee, (wherever applicable), as provided under Para-5 of Advertisement.

- (i) Submission of wrong information / false information about qualification / Age / O.T. Pass evidence / Category Status (ST/S.C./SEBC/PWD/Women/Ex-servicemen/ Sports Persons etc.).
- (j) Suppression of facts / information about eligibility, if any.
- (k) Any other ground as per the decision of the Commission.

N.B:- APPLICATION / CANDIDATURE OF A CANDIDATE SHALL BE REJECTED AT ANY STAGE OF RECRUITMENT PROCESS, WHEN 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 and 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 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 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 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.

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- (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 05 (Five) 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 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.- 207 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 application, the date & time of 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 REGISTRATION/RE-REGISTRATION AND ONLINE PAYMENT OF EXAMINATION FEES SHALL BE AVAILABLE IN THE WEBSITE FROM 23.04.2021 TO TILL 24.05.2021 (11:59 P.M).*

(B) *SUBMISSION OF ONLINE REGISTERED APPLICATIONS CAN BE DONE IN THE WEBSITE FROM 23.04.2021 TO TILL 31.05.2021 (11.59 P.M).*

NB: THE ONLINE APPLICATIONS, IF FOUND DEFECTIVE IN ANY RESPECT IS LIABLE TO BE SUMMARILY REJECTED.

CUTTACK

DATE – 06.05.2021


SECRETARY

ODISHA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
CUTTACK

ANNEXURE - ASYLLABUS FOR ASSISTANT SOIL CONSERVATION OFFICERS' EXAMINATIONPAPER-IUnit-I:

General agriculture: Importance, Trend in agriculture and allied sectors, Present day problems and remedial measures, Government policies. (20 marks)

Unit-II:

Natural Resources : Land, Water, Forest, Energy – their use, exploitation, conservation, equitable use of resources for sustainable lifestyle; Plant Ecosystem; Biodiversity and its conservation; Environmental Pollution; Natural Disasters and their management; Organic farming and Sustainable agriculture; Conservation agriculture; Agricultural waste management; Climate change and agriculture. (20 marks)

Unit-III:

Soil forming processes; Soil physical properties: texture, structure, density and porosity; Soil water retention, movement and availability; Soil reaction-pH, soil acidity and alkalinity; Soil organic matter: influence on soil properties and soil fertility; Soil organisms: macro and micro organisms, their beneficial and harmful effects; Soil pollution: behaviour of pesticides and inorganic contaminants, prevention and mitigation of soil pollution; Soil quality and health. (20 marks)

Unit-IV:

Weather and crop growth; Tillage and tilling; Seed and sowing; Cropping systems and Integrated Farming Systems; Crop nutrition-essential nutrients- their functions and deficiency symptoms in plants; Nutrient sources-organic manures-fertilizers-biofertilizers-Integrated Nutrient Management; Water and weed management in field, horticultural and plantation crops; Plant protection; Harvesting, storage and value addition. (20 marks)

Unit-V:

Economic importance, production and protection technology of important field crops- rice, maize, finger millet, pulses and oilseeds, cotton, sugarcane, potato; Importance and scope of fruit and plantation crops – production and protection technologies for the cultivation of fruit and plantation crops-mango, banana, citrus, guava, litchi, papaya, pineapple, pomegranate, jackfruit, coconut, areca nut, cashew, tea, coffee, rubber; Nursery techniques and their management; Nutrition garden. (20 marks)

PAPER-IIUnit-VI

Agroforestry-objectives and potential; Agroforestry system- sub-system and practice. Planning for agroforestry-constraints, diagnosis and design methodology, selection of tree crop species for agroforestry; Agroforestry for food, feed, fuel and nutritional security, soil improvement-carbon sequestration, microclimate amelioration, industrial requirement; Ecotourism-concept and importance in Indian perspectives. (20 marks)

Unit-VII

Rainfed agriculture: problems and prospects; Rainfall analysis; Drought-classification, causes and impacts, drought management strategy; Crops and cropping systems, soil moisture and rain water conservation-*in-situ* and *ex-situ* storage, water harvesting and recycling, contingent crop planning under aberrant weather conditions, dryland horticulture; Watershed planning based on land capability classes and hydrologic data, watershed delineation and prioritization; Water budgeting in a watershed; Integrated watershed management-concept, objectives components, arable lands – agriculture and horticulture, non-arable lands – forestry, fishery and animal husbandry; Watershed programme – execution, follow-up practices, maintenance, monitoring and evaluation; Participatory watershed management – role of watershed associations, user groups and self-help groups; Planning and formulation of project proposal for watershed management programme including cost-benefit analysis. (20 marks)

Unit-VIII

Soil and water conservation – issues and importance; Causes and agents of soil erosion; Water erosion: Hydrologic cycle, precipitation and its forms, Runoff estimation, Forms of water erosion. Gully classification and control measures. Principles of erosion control: Introduction to contouring, strip cropping, contour bund, graded bund and bench terracing, grassed water ways and their design; Water harvesting-principles, importance and techniques: Runoff harvesting-short-term and long-term techniques; Water harvesting structures – farm ponds-percolation pond-dug-out and embankment reservoir types, tanks and subsurface dykes; Wind erosion: mechanics of wind erosion, types of soil movement; Principles of wind erosion control and its control measures. (20 marks)

Unit-IX

Wasteland-causes, distribution and sustainable wasteland development- Government policies, Participatory approach; Soil conservation structures, Afforestation, Shifting cultivation, Optimal land use options; Reclamation of Saline, Sodic, Acid, Waterlogged, Eroded, Compacted, Flooded, Polluted soils and Mine spoils; Desertification- impact and causes, prevention and control measures; Bio remediation of soils through multipurpose tree species; Remote sensing and GIS in diagnosis and management of problem soils; Land capability and land suitability classification. (20 marks)

Unit-X

Protected cultivation : importance and scope, controlled conditions, method and techniques, canopy management, Irrigation and fertigation, liquid fertilisers and their solubility and compatibility, insect pest and disease management; Production of quality planting materials, cultivation of high value crops and off-season production in green houses; Components of precision farming: Remote sensing, Geographical Information System (GIS), Differential Geo-positioning System (DGPS), Variable Rate applicator (VRA), application of precision farming in agriculture. (20 marks)