ODISHA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ADVERTISEMENT NO. 23 OF 2018/19

Recruitment to the post of Assistant Horticulture Officer in class-II of Group-B service under Department of Agriculture & Farmer's Empowerment.

WEBSITE: http://opsconline.gov.in and http://opsc.gov.in

Applications are invited Online through the proforma application from candidates only to be made available on the WEBSITE **(http://opsconline.gov.in)** from **28.5.2019 to 27.6.2019** for recruitment to the posts of Assistant Horticulture Officer in Class-II, Group-B of Odisha Horticulture Service (Method of Recruitment & Conditions of Service) Rules-2014 under Department of Agriculture & Farmer's Empowerment, in the pay scale of Pre-revised PB-2 Rs.9,300-34,800/- carrying Grade pay of Rs.4600/- revised column 10 of pay matrix, 2017 with usual Dearness and other Allowances as may be sanctioned by the Government of Odisha from time to time.

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

Sl. No.	Category	No. of posts
1.	Unreserved	24(08-w)
2.	SEBC	04(01-w)
3.	SC	11(04-w)
4.	ST	24(08-w)
Total		63(21-w)

Out of the above vacancies 02 posts are reserved for Ex-servicemen and 2 (01-w) posts are reserved for P.H. persons of Locomotor Disability or Cerebral Palsy as per requisition furnished by the Government.

Candidates belonging to Ex-Servicemen or PWD Categories shall be adjusted against the Categories to which they belong.

NOTE:- a) Exchange of reservation between Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe will not be considered.

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

c) The no. 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.

d) The categories of disabled suitable for the job (Functional Classification and Physical requirement for persons with disability are given below:-

Physical Requirment	Categories of Disabled Suitable for the job (Functional Classification)
Code ST, W, SE, H	Code OL (MNR), HI (with suitable aid)
Full Forms ST- Work performed by standing . W- Work performed by walking SE- Work performed by seeing H- Work performed by hearing/speaking	Full Forms OL (MNR)- One leg affected- (Right or Left) Mobility not be restricted HI- (With suitable aid)- Partially Deaf With suitable aid

3. **EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION:** A candidate must hold a Bachelor of Science Degree in Horticulture / Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture from any of the recognized Universities or Institutions.

4. **AGE:** A candidate must have attained the age of 21 years and must not be above the age of 32 (thirty-two) years as on the 1st day of January 2019 i.e. he/she must have been born not earlier than 2nd January 1987 and not later than 1st January 1998. Age relaxation shall be as per government rules prescribed for the purpose.

The upper age limit prescribed above shall be relax-able by 5 (five) years for candidates belonging to the categories of Scheduled Castes (S.C.), Scheduled Tribes (S.T.), Socially & Educationally Backward Classes (S.E.B.C.), Women, Ex-servicemen, and by cumulative 10 (ten) years for candidates belonging to Physically Handicapped category, whose disability is 40% and more

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.

The 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.

5. **APPLICATION 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/ Scheduled Tribe of Odisha only and Persons with disability (whose disability is 40% and more) are exempted from payment of this fee. **Deposit of application fees by way of any other mode, except SBI challan generated through the computer, shall not be accepted.**

6. **METHOD OF SELECTION:**

(a) The selection of candidates for recruitment to the post shall be made on the basis of written test and interview.

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i. Written Test :- It shall consist of one paper with Objective type MCQ pattern questions, The paper shall be of 200 (two hundred) marks with 200 questions each carrying one mark. The duration shall be of three hours.
ii. There shall be no negative marking for wrong answers.
iii. Interview shall consist of 25 (twenty five) marks.

(b) 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.

The broad outlines of the syllabus for the said examination (one paper) is at **Annexure-I.**

7. PLACE OF EXAMINATION

The written examination for the post of Assistant Horticulture Officers shall be held at Cuttack and Bhubaneswar, depending upon the number of candidates applied. 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 of (a) good moral character, and (b) good mental condition and bodily sound health, good physique and active habits and free from organic defects or bodily infirmity so as not to create an impairment in the due discharge of duties;

(iii) The candidate must have Knowledge in Odia: he/she must be able to read, write and speak 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 subjects; 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/Board of Secondary Education, Odisha

(iv) 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;

(v) 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 inform their respective Heads of Offices/Departments in writing regarding submission of their applications for this recruitment and obtain "No Objection Certificate";

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(vi) 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);

(vii) **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 online application form, will be considered eligible;**

(viii) 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 news paper as well as copy of notification in the Odisha Gazette in support of his/her change of name.

(ix) 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. **OTHER CONDITIONS**:

(i) The provisions of the Odisha Conduct of Examination Act 1988 (Odisha Act-2 of 1988) are applicable to the examination conducted by the Odisha Public Service Commission.

(ii) A candidate found guilty of seeking support for his/her candidature by offering illegal gratification or applying pressure on any person connected with the conduct of the recruitment process or found indulging in any type of malpractice in course of the selection or otherwise, shall, in addition to rendering himself/herself liable to criminal prosecution, be disqualified not only for the recruitment for which he/she is a candidate, but also may be debarred, either permanently or for a specified period, from any recruitment or selection to be conducted by the Commission;

(iii) **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;**

(iv) This advertisement should not be construed as binding on the Government to make appointment;

(v) Concessions meant for **S.C., S.T. & SEBC by Birth** are admissible to the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Socially & Educationally Backward Classes of **Odisha State only**;

(vi) All persons appointed under the Government of Odisha on or after 1st January, 2005 shall not be eligible for pension as defined under sub-rule(1) of Rule-3 of the Odisha Civil Service (Pension) Rules, 1992; but shall be covered by the new structured defined Contribution Pension Scheme in accordance with the Odisha Civil Services (Pension) Amendment Rules, 2005;

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(vii) Any **misrepresentation or suppression of information by the candidate in the online application** will result in cancellation of his/her candidature or penalty be imposed on the candidate as decided by the Commission;

(viii) Mere empanelment in the select list shall not confer any right for appointment unless the Government is satisfied after making such enquiry as may be deemed necessary that the candidate is suitable in all respects for appointment to the service.

10. CERTIFICATES/DOCUMENTS TO BE ATTACHED:

Only those, who are called for the viva voce test, will be required to submit the printout/hard copy of online applications, true copies of the following documents duly attested by the candidates with full signature with date on the same original certificates, mark-sheets etc. for verification on the date fixed by the Commission.

If a candidate fails to produce any of the original documents in respect of the attested copies submitted with the application form for verification **on the date of verification fixed by the Commission,** he/she shall not be allowed to appear at the viva voce test and his/her candidature will be rejected.

(i) H.S.C. or equivalent certificate in support of declaration of age issued by the concerned Board/Council.

(ii) Intermediate/+2 Sc. Pass Certificate issued by the concerned University/Council;

(iii) Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture/Agriculture Certificate issued by the recognized university or institutions;

(iv) Mark-sheets in support of all the aforesaid examinations (i.e. H.S.C. to B.Sc. Horticulture/B.Sc. Agriculture) passed including fail marks, if any, issued by the concerned Board/Council/ University or Institutions;

NOTE 1:

(a) Candidates who have not been awarded percentage of marks, but only **"GRADES",** should, alongwith 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 relevant box of the online application form, the candidate has to mention details of marks secured (excepting marks secured in the extra optional/fourth optional subject) in each examination passed (i.e. H.S.C. to B.Sc. Agriculture/B.Sc. Horticulture)**

(v) The candidates must take utmost care in filling up the marks secured and maximum marks for each year. Any mistake in filling up the marks will be at the risk of the candidates.

(vi) A "No Objection Certificate" from the Head of Office/Head of the Department in case of Government servant.

(vii) Two recent passport size photographs (unsigned and unattested) with the printout/hard copy of online application form which has been uploaded.

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(viii) Certificates of character and conduct from the Principal/Proctor/Dean or Professor in charge of teaching department of the College or University in which he/she last studied;

(ix) **Caste Certificate by birth in support of claim as SC/ST/SEBC, wherever applicable;**

NOTE 2: Candidates claiming to be belonging to S.C. /S.T./ S.E.B.C Category <u>by birth</u> 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 from the date of advertisement in the prescribed form.

(i) **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 ……") is not acceptable.**

(ii) **O.B.C. CERTIFICATE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

(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;

(x) <u>Required Odia Pass Certificate from the Board of Secondary Education, Odisha indicating Odia as a language subject</u> equivalent to M.E. School Standard or a certificate from the Principal/Headmaster of the recognized school indicating that the candidate has passed Odia upto M.E. standard; if not passed Odia as a subject in the High School certificate examination or equivalent examination;

(xi) Discharge Certificates of Ex-Serviceman issued by the Commanding Officer of the Unit last served wherever applicable; A Court Affidavit regarding not holding any civil post after retirement from military service.

(xii) Ex-Servicemen candidates must submit an undertaking that he/she has not appointed against a civil post after retirement from military service.

(xiii) Disability Certificate (indicating percentage of disability) issued by the concerned Medical Board, wherever applicable;

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(xiv) 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.

NOTE-3: Degree Certificate, Caste Certificate, Odia test Pass Certificate, Discharge Certificate of Ex-Serviceman and Disability certificate of Physically Handicapped Persons must have been issued by the competent authority within the last date fixed for receipt of application form as indicated above.

11. **"GROUNDS OF REJECTION OF APPLICATIONS"**

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

(a) In complete online application form.

(b) Declaration not signed (full signature) by the candidate in the hard copy of online application form.

(c) Age limit of candidate not coming under para-4 of the advertisement (Overage relaxation shall not be allowed to PWD candidates having less than 40% permanent disability).

(d) Required educational qualification as provided under para-3 of the advertisement.

(e) Not furnished copies of certificates/documents etc. as provided under para-10 of the advertisement.

(f) Odia test (M.E. standard) not passed/Odia test pass evidence not furnished as required under para-8 (iii) of the advertisement **(certificate/document showing had Odia/Studied Odia/learned Odia/ taken Odia will not be accepted).**

(g) Submission of wrong information /false information about qualification/ age/Odia test pass evidence/category status (SC/ST /Ex-serviceman/PWD/Woman etc).

(h) Suppression of facts/ information about eligibility, if any.

(i) Any other grounds as per decision of the Commission.

(j) Application submitted by the candidate to OPSC, if found to be incomplete in any respect and at any stage.

(k) If a candidate fails to furnish any of the original certificates and documents for verification on the date fixed by the Commission.

(l) Application received through any other mode (expect online through the proforma application to be made available on the **WEBSITE of OPSC)**

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) Candidate must go through this advertisement available in the Website of OPSC before filling up Online Application Form.

b) Candidates must apply online through the website http://opsconline.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 the following documents available at http://opsconline.gov.in.

i. Instruction to fill up online application form
ii. Guideline for scanning and uploading of photograph, full signature & left thumb impression.

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d) Candidates are required to upload the scanned image (only in jpg format)of his/her latest passport size colour photograph, full signature and scanned image of left thumb impression (L.T.I.) in the online application form. Uploaded photograph, specimen (full) signature and L.T.I. must be and 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.

(e) Candidates should keep at least 2 copies of latest passport size photograph which is uploaded on the online application form for future use.

(f) While filling up the relevant box of the online application form, the candidate has to mention details of marks (minus extra optional) secured in annual examination leading to award of degree.

(g) **On successful submission of the online application form, a unique registration ID will be displayed on the screen as well as on the top of the application form. Candidates are required to take a printout of the finally submitted online application form and put his/her signature under the declaration for submission to O.P.S.C. along with copies of requisite certificates and documents.**

(h) **Thereafter, the candidates who are required to pay the fee shall take a printout of online challan (Pay-in-Slip) for payment of requisite fee of Rs. 500/- (Rupees five hundred) only at any branch of State Bank of India (SBI). The fee paid shall not be refunded under any circumstances nor can the fee be adjusted or held in reserve for any other examination or recruitment. Deposit of application fees by any other mode (i.e. except SBI challan generated from the computer) shall not be accepted.**

(j) The candidates are advised to submit the online application well in advance without waiting for the closing date to avoid last hour rush.

(k) Intimation letters to the eligible candidates and "Attestation Form" will be uploaded in the website of the OPSC prior to the date of viva voce test which will be published in the website and news paper. The candidates are required to download their "Intimation letters" and "Attestation Form" from the website of the Commission and produce the same for admission of the Examination or viva voce test. No separate correspondence will be made on this score.

13. **FACILITATION COUNTER :-**

For any technical guidance on filling up of online application form, the candidates may contact facilitation counter of O.C.A.C. over Toll Free No.18003456770 or 155335 between 10.30.A.M. to 1.30 P.M. and 2.00 P.M. to 5.00 P.M. on any Odisha Government working day.

Regarding difficulty in payment of fee, if any, the candidates may contact **SBI** over **Telephone No.0671-2368267 and 9437039604.**

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In case of any guidance/information on this advertisement and recruitment, candidates may 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 the programme of the viva voce test, notice regarding rejection of applications; other important notices etc. and also keep track of publication of various notices to the effect in the leading local daily news papers for information.

Closing Dates

(a) **ON LINE APPLICATIONS SHALL BE AVAILABLE IN THE WEBSITE FROM 28.5.2019 TO 27.6.2019 TILL 11.59 P.M.**

(b) **LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATION FEE AT ANY S.B.I. BRANCH IS 02.07.2019 .**

NB:- THE ONLINE APPLICATION FORM IF FOUND DEFECTIVE IN ANY RESPECT IS LIABLE TO BE SUMMARILY REJECTED. THE CANDIDATES ARE ADVISED TO BE CAREFUL WHILE FILING THE ONLINE APPLICATION FORM. ANY MISREPRESENTATION IN THE ONLINE APPLICATION SHALL BE LIABLE FOR REJECTION WITHOUT MAKING ANY CORRESPONDENCE ON THAT SCORE.

CUTTACK

DATE:16.5.2019

SECRETARY
ODISHA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION,
CUTTACK.

Annexure-I
Syllabus for AHO requirement

Plant propagation and nursery management : Importance of plant propagation, sexual & asexual method of plant propagation, advantages, disadvantages, detail about grafting, layering, budding, cutting, tissue culture, propagation through specialised plant part, incompatibility, polyembryony, apomixes, parthenocarpy, root stocks, anatomical studies on rooting, scion, graft union, use of PGR, propagation method of horticultural crops, plant propagating structure, media preparation, nursery act, registration, insect pest & disease control of nursery plants, Hi-tech nurseries.

Fruit crops: Importance of fruits classification of fruits, area, production, export, marketing, storage, fruit growing zones of fruit crops, agro-climatic zones & suitable fruits for tropical, subtropical & waste land areas, soil, climate, varieties planting, cultural practices, irrigation, nutrition, weed management plant protection, harvesting, yield, storage, processing, Physiological disorders, insect, pest, diseases management, Post-harvest technology, training, pruning, unfruitfulness of fruits of important fruit crops such as mango, Banana, citrus fruits, Pine-apple, Guava, Citrus, Papaya, Sapota, Bael, Ber, Jack fruit, Pomegranate, Litchi, Jamun, bael, Custard apple, aonla etc.

Plantation crops: Importance, scope, area, production, marketing, processing & cultivation practices of important plantation crops like coconut, areca nut, Oil palm, Palmyrah palm, Cocoa, coffee, tea, rubber, date palm in relation to soil, climate, varieties, plant protection, soil & water management, processing packaging, grading, value addition.

Vegetable crops: Area, production, importance, productivity, export, value addition, off season cultivation, green house cultivation, organic farming, seed production, certification, value addition, storage of vegetable & cultivation of important, tropical, subtropical, temperate, under exploited, perennial vegetable crops in relation to soil, climate, varieties, hybrid, seed rate, spacing, fertiliser dose, physiological disorders, plant protection, harvesting storage, processing, important varieties, vegetable garden etc.

Spices, Condiments, Medicinal plants: History scope, area, production, marketing, export, value addition, processing, storage of important spices, condiments & medicinal plants. Cultivation practices of important spices, condiments and medicinal plants with relation to soil, climate, variety, spacing, fertilisers, plant protection, harvesting & marketing, processing etc. Uses of important spices, condiments & medicinal plants.

Ornamental horticulture: History, definition, scope, importance, marketing, export, aesthetic value, floriculture industry, industrial importance, open cultivation, protected cultivation, packaging, marketing, storage of important commercial flowers, Ornamental trees, climbers, shrubs, herbs, loose flowers, foliage plants, house plants, orchids, cut flowers, different types of garden, parks, gardens features, Bonsai, terrace garden, flower arrangement, bio aesthetic planting, landscape architecture, commercial cultivation of important cut flower crops, lawn & its maintenance, protected cultivation of important flowers & foliage plants.

Related subjects: Precision farming, protected cultivation, drip and sprinkler irrigation, Fertigation, post harvesting technology of horticultural crops, nutrient management, INM, important insect, pest and diseases of horticultural crops, water management, soil management, use of PGR, organic farming and certification, leaf analysis, genetic Engineering, bio-control, different cropping pattern, crop rotation, farming system research, weed management, water management, soil management, seed production, organic farming, protected cultivation, respiration, transpiration, photosynthesis, biotic & abiotic stress management, dormancy, growth and development, horticulture entrepreneurship.

Agro meteorology: Agro climate zones of India & Odisha, Agro- ecology for horticultural crops, Weather & climate, Weather parameters and crop environment, Weather forecasting, Climate change, vulnerability and risks, Climate resilience and climate smart practices.

Soil and nutrition: Soil of Odisha, problematic soils and their management, essential plant nutrients, crop growth, manures and fertilisers, integrated nutrient management for horticultural crop, nutrient use efficiency.

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Water management: Water resources of Odisha, Irrigation development, Soil plant water relation, Water requirement and irrigation efficiencies, Irrigation scheduling, methods & irrigation, micro irrigation & water use efficiencies, Irrigation water quality, stress management.

Weed management: Weeds competition & allelopathy, crop weed association, weed prevention eradication and control, integrated weed management, herbicides and their uses selectivity and environmental impacts.

Dry land farming: Rained and dry land horticulture, drought management, Contingent planning, soil moisture conservation, water harvesting & recycling, watershed management, conservation farming/ horticulture.

Integrated Farming System: Farming system and horticulture, Integrated farming system models (horticultural based), farm machineries & equipment for horticulture, tillage & tillage implements.

Seed technology: Seed quality, seed dormancy, seed production certification storage etc.

Economics: Cost of cultivation of horticultural crops, Entrepreneurship in horticulture, Agribusiness management, marketing.

Statistics: Basic statistical principles, data collection compilation & presentation.

Plant Protection: IPM, biological control, important insect pest, diseases and nematodes of horticultural crops.

Distribution of Marks for Assistant Horticulture Officer

Number of multiple choice questions to be prepared:

1. Plant propagation and nursery management:	20
2. Fruit crops:	20
3. Plantation crops:	20
4. Vegetable crops:	20
5. Spices, Condiments, Medicinal plants:	20
6. Ornamental horticulture:	20
7. Related subjects:	30
8. Agro meteorology:	05
9. Soil and nutrition:	05
10. Water management:	05
11. Weed management:	05
12. Dry land farming:	05
13. Integrated Farming System:	05
14. Seed technology:	05
15. Economics:	05
16. Statistics:	05
17. Plant Protection:	05
	Total 200 marks

Total number of questions: 200, Time: 3 Hours, Each question carries one mark. ,No negative marking.

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