



ODISHA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

ADVERTISEMENT NO. 17 OF 2023-24

Recruitment to the posts of Assistant Horticulture Officer in Class-II of Group-B Service under the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' 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://opsc.gov.in>). The link for registration /re-registration shall be available from 15.11.2023. to 15.12.2023 (Note: 15.12.2023 is the last date for submission of Registered Online Application) for recruitment to 33 (Thirty Three) posts of Assistant Horticulture Officer in Class-II of Group-B Service under the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' 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 temporary and likely to continue.

2. **Vacancy Position:** As per requisition filed by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Government of Odisha, the vacancy positions are given below:

Sl. No.	Category	No of Vacancies
1	UR	26 (09-W)
2	SEBC	00 (00-W)
3	SC	01 (00-W)
4	ST	06 (02-W)
Total		33 (11-w)

Out of the total 33 (11-W) vacancies, 01 (One) post is reserved for Ex-Servicemen & 01 (One) post is reserved for Persons with Disabilities having Hearing Impairment [HI (with suitable aid)] and whose permanent disability is 40% and more. Candidates belonging to the categories of Ex-Servicemen and Persons with Disabilities shall be adjusted against the categories to which they belong.

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

Physical Requirements	Functional Classification
ST, W, SE, H	OL (MNR) ,HI(with suitable aid)
Full Forms	Full Forms
ST- Work performed by standing.	OL (MNR)- One leg affected- (Right or Left)
W- Work performed by walking	Mobility not be restricted
SE- Work performed by seeing	HI-Hearing Impairment
H- Work performed by hearing/speaking	

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 (twenty one)** years and must not be above the age of **38 (thirty eight)** years as on **01.01.2023** i.e. he or she must be born not earlier than **02.01.1985** and not later than **01.01.2002**.

The upper age limit is relax-able by 5(five) years for candidates belonging to the categories of Scheduled Castes(S.C.), Scheduled Tribes(S.T.), Women, Ex-Servicemen, and by 10(ten) years for Persons with Disabilities with the functional classification of HI (with suitable aid) & OL(MNR) whose permanent disability is 40% and more.

Persons with Disabilities belonging to SC and ST categories shall be entitled to cumulative age relaxation benefits of 15 years.

Although age relaxation is permissible to aforementioned PWD categories of persons, also mentioned in the Table, reservation of post is only meant for persons with Hearing Impairment (HI with suitable aid) category, as requisitioned by the Government.

Provided that a candidate who comes under more than one category mentioned above he/she will be eligible for only one age relaxation benefit.

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 possess a **Bachelor of Science Degree in Horticulture/Agriculture** from any of the recognized Universities or Institutions.

5. EXAMINATION FEE:

The candidates are exempted for payment of examination fees as per G.A & P.G Department letter No.9897/Gen dated 11.04.2022.

6. METHOD OF SELECTION:

(a) The selection of candidates for recruitment to the posts of Assistant Horticulture Officer shall be made on the basis of **Written Test** and **Interview**.

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 of the test shall be of **03 hours**.

ii. There shall be **negative marking** for wrong answers.

iii. There shall be a deduction of 0.25 marks for every wrong answer.

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

Note: Any details relating to this recruitment like cut-off marks, answer keys, individual marks etc. shall only be declared on the website of the Commission after publication of the final result and select list.

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 (b) sound physical and mental health and free from organic defects or bodily infirmities so as not to create an impairment in due discharge of duties. A candidate who after such medical examination as the Government may prescribe is not found to satisfy these requirements, shall not be appointed to the Service.
- (iii) 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 School standard conducted by the School & Mass Education Department of Government of Odisha/ 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 & 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.
- (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 registered 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 newspaper as well as copy of notification in the 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. **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) 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) 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;
- (iv) **Admission to Examination/ Viva Voce test will be provisional. If on verification at any stage before or after the Examination/V.V. 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;**
- (v) This advertisement should not be construed as binding on the Government to make appointment;
- (vi) **Concessions meant for S.C. & S.T. by Birth are admissible to the Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes of Odisha only;**
- (vii) 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;
- (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:**

Candidates who qualify in the written examination shall 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) Intermediate/+2 examination certificate issued by the concerned Board/Council;
- (iii) Bachelor of Science degree in Horticulture/Agriculture Certificate issued by the recognized Universities 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/ Universities or Institutions;

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 relevant box of the online application form, the candidate has to mention the marks secured (excepting marks secured in the Extra Optional/4th Optional Subject) in each examination passed (i.e. H.S.C. to B.Sc. Horticulture/B.Sc. Agriculture).

- (v) Odia Test Pass certificate.
- (vi) No Objection Certificate issued by the competent authority, if applicable;
- (vii) Four recent passport size photographs (unsigned and unattested) with the printout / hard copy of online application form which has been uploaded.
- (viii) **Caste Certificate by birth in support of claim as SC / ST, wherever applicable (Please see Note: 2);**
- (ix) Disability Certificate (indicating percentage of permanent disability) issued by the concerned Medical Board wherever applicable;
- (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) Any proof of identity;

NOTE 2:

- (i) Candidates claiming to be belonging 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.
- (ii) Women candidates belonging to 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.
- (iv) 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 3:

Degree Certificate, Caste Certificate, Odia Test Pass certificate, Discharge Certificate of Ex-servicemen 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) 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 passing Odia test (M.E. standard)/not furnishing Odia test pass evidence as required under Para-8 (iii) 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 (SC/ST/PWD/Ex-Servicemen/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 four 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 on the Website of the OPSC prior to the date of written examination, which will be published on the Website of the Commission. 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) "NOTICE" to candidates for document verification & interview and "Attestation form" & "Bio-data form" shall be uploaded on 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 07 (Seven) 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 5.30 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 5.30 P.M.*

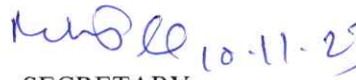
The candidates are required to visit the website of the Commission at <http://opsc.gov.in> for detailed information about important notices, rejection of applications, the date & time of Written Examination/ Document verification & Interview and also keep track of publication of various notices to the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

Closing Dates

- 1. THE LINK FOR ONLINE APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION SHALL BE AVAILABLE IN THE WEBSITE FROM 15.11.2023 TO 15.12.2023 (11.59 P.M).**
- 2. ONLY ONLINE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED WITHIN THE DEADLINE i.e.15.12.2023 SHALL BE ACCEPTED.**

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

CUTTACK
DATE : 10.11.2023


SECRETARY
ODISHA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION,
CUTTACK.

Syllabus for AHO recruitment

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 parts, incompatibility, parthenocarpy, root stocks, use of PGR. propagation method of horticultural crops, plant propagating structure, media preparation, nursery act, registration, accreditation and 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, Management-Nutrient, Water & Weed; Intercultural operations, plant protection measures; harvesting & yield, processing. Physiological disorders, Post harvest technology of important fruit crops such as Mango, Banana, Citrus, Pine-apple, Guava, Papaya, Sapota, Ber, Pomegranate, Litchi and custard apple

Niche crops: Anola, Jamun, Bael and Jackfruit

Exotic crops: Pasion Fruit, Avocado, Dragon Fruit and Strawberry

Plantation crops: Importance, scope, area, production, Soil & Climate, Commercial Varieties; Plant protection measures, Management-Nutrient, Water, & Weed; processing; Packaging, grading; Value addition; Marketing of important plantation crops like coconut, areca nut, Cashew nut, Oil palm, Palmyrah palm, Cocoa, coffee, tea, rubber and date palm

Vegetable crops: Scope and Importance; area, production & productivity, export potential, value addition, off season cultivation, green house cultivation, organic farming, seed production & certification; storage of vegetable ; cultivation of important, tropical, subtropical, temperate, under exploited, perennial vegetable crops in relation to soil & climate, Commercial varieties, hybrid, seed rate, spacing, & time of sowing/transplanting ; Nutrient, Water & Weed Management; physiological disorders, plant protection, harvesting, Post Harvest Management

Important Vegetable crops to be covered : Solanaceous Vegetables (Potato, Tomato, Brinjal, Chilli & Capsicum); Major Cucurbits (Pumpkin, Cucumber, Watermelon, Bitter gourd, Bottle gourd & Ridge gourd); Pod Vegetable (Pea, French bean, Cowpea, Cluster bean and Dolichos bean); Okra ; Cole Crops (Cabbage, Cauliflower & Knol khol); Bulb Crops (Onion & Garlic); Root Crops

(Radish, Carrot, Beet root & Turnip); Leafy Vegetables (Amaranthus, Basella, Spinach); Tree Vegetables (Drumstick & Curry leaves); Tropical tuber crops (Sweet potato, Cassava & Taro)

Spices, Condiments & Medicinal plants: History, scope & Importance of Spices, condiments & Medicinal plants; Cultivation practices of important spices, condiments and medicinal plants with relation to soil & climate, Commercial varieties, spacing, seed rate and time of sowing/ planting; Management-Nutrient, Water & Weed; Plant Protection; fertilizers, harvesting & yield; Post Harvest Management of important crops-Betel vine, Black Pepper, Cardamom, Ginger, Turmeric, Curry leaf, Coriander, Fenugreek, Fennel, Cumin, Periwinkle, Rauwolfia, Dioscorea, Lemongrass, Occimum, Kewda and Aloe vera.

Ornamental Horticulture: History; 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, garden features; Bonsai, Urban Horticulture, flower arrangement, bio aesthetic planting, landscape architecture, commercial cultivation of important flower crops- Rose, Marigold, Chrysanthemum, Orchid, Carnation, Gladiolus, Jasmine, Crossandra, Anturium, Dahalia, Tuberosa, Gerbera ; lawn & its maintenance; protected cultivation of important flowers & foliage plants. Processing and value addition of important flowers.

Related subjects: Protected cultivation, drip and sprinkler irrigation, Fertigation, post harvesting technology of horticultural crops, use of PGR, organic farming and certification, genetic Engineering, Different cropping pattern, crop rotation; Biotic & abiotic stress management, growth and development; Waste land Management; Crop diversification; Schemes on Horticulture; Digital Initiative of State Govt. .

Agro meteorology: Agro climate zones of India & Odisha, Agro-ecology for horticultural crops, Weather & climate, Crop-Weather relationship, 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 fertilizers, integrated nutrient management for horticultural crops, nutrient use efficiency.

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: Rainfed and dry land horticulture, drought management, Contingent planning, soil moisture conservation, water harvesting & recycling, watershed management, conservation agriculture/ 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 and storage etc.

Agri. Economics: Cost of cultivation of horticultural crops, Entrepreneurship in horticulture: Apiculture, Mushroom, Agribusiness management, marketing. Supply & value chain; Concept on FPO, CBBO, Share capital.

Agri. Statistics-Basic statistical principles, data collection compilation & presentation

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