

F.No-33-70/2016-MIDH (AAP)
Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture Cooperation & Farmers Welfare
Department of Agriculture Cooperation & Farmers Welfare
(Horticulture Division)

Room No- 434
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-1
Dated: 16th March, 2017

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Minutes of the meeting chaired by Director (Horticulture) to review activities of National Level Agencies (NLAs) at Room No. 246, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-reg.

A copy of minutes of the meeting chaired by Director (Horticulture) to review activities of National Level Agencies (NLAs) held on 03.03.2017 is enclosed for information and necessary action.

Encl: as above



(M.K. Mishra)
Under Secretary (MIDH)
Ph. No. 011-23074238
Email: mrityunjaya.m@nic.in

Distribution:

- (i) Director, SFAC
- (ii) Asst. Director, MNCFC
- (iii) Head, Division of Sample Survey, IASRI
- (iv) Dr. Prachi Mishra, Senior Scientist, MNCFC
- (v) Shri Manikandhan M., Asst. Director, Spices Board

Copy to (for information):

- (i) PS to JS (MIDH)
- (ii) PPS to Dir (Hort)

Minutes of the meeting of Review of activities of National Level Agencies under MIDH held on 3rd March, 2017 at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi

The Review meeting of NLAs under MIDH was held under the chairmanship of Director (Horticulture) at 03.00 PM on 03.03.2017 to monitor the physical and financial progress of Annual Action Plan 2016-17 of Spices Board, IASRI, MNCFC and SFAC. The list of participants is given at Annexure 1.

At the outset, Director (Horticulture) welcomed the Representative of Spices Board, IASRI, MNCFC and SFAC. Based on the discussion held and clarification furnished by Spices Board, IASRI, MNCFC and SFAC, made following observations were:

Spices Board

1. Action taken report (ATR) has been examined. Spices Board should ensure that the action actually concludes into outputs and outcome by end of this financial year.
2. Despite issue of various reminders, the present status in context of Skill Development is not satisfactory. Spices Board must fix the skill development targets for 2017-18 and should complete 1-2 batches of skill development in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) by 31.03.2017.
3. Spices board was requested to conduct a value chain study of cardamom in concerned districts of North eastern states. It was suggested that the study should include the various aspects related to source of planting material; production practices details, harvesting, sorting, grading, processing and marketing of cardamom. Spices Board should come up with possible solutions and actionable points for different issues.
4. Spices board needs to understand the issue regarding distribution of equipments through DBT. Spices board was informed that the data has to be digitized in the specified format prepared by NIC. Also Aadhar number of beneficiaries shall be linked to their bank account in which is money is transferred. During the meeting the format was shared with Spices board for taking necessary action.
5. Against the BE of Rs. 2.00 crore, Rs. 1.00 crore has been released. No proposal for 2nd installment received so far. Spice board may not require any additional fund.
6. Achievement under baseline survey and skill development is NIL.
7. Achievement report shows that achievement is only under "Demonstration at farm level" and "Horticulture Mechanization" with the expenditure of Rs. 44.48 lakhs out of Rs. 200.0 lakhs which shows that there is no further requirement of funds.
8. Overall performance of spices board is below average. Next year they should allocate more resources to Value Chain Management study and skill development and try to achieve the agreed targets.

Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI)

1. IASRI has given its area estimates and deviation from state data for the same districts of Andhra Pradesh. The deviation in area estimates ranges from 6% to 68% which is too high. In most of the cases the area estimated by IASRI is lower than estimates done by the states. IASRI should come out with detailed study reasoning actionable points based on deviation analysis. Similar exercise should be done for all the districts/states covered under the pilot project.
2. IASRI is doing pilot project in 4 states and 21 Districts. IASRI should submit district-wise achievement report as given by MNCFC.
3. A detailed discussion was held regarding the sampling methodology being used by IASRI. It was informed by IASRI that for productivity estimation in one district 4800 sample plots having size of 5mx5m for major vegetables and fruits are selected. For yield estimation, 'crop cutting experiment' are being carried out for which 7 field investigators are hired at district level through service provider for 15 months. Using the sample data, IASRI develops a statistical model and use it for non-surveyed district incorporating the historical data and comes out with the production estimates. From this method, it is clear that area and production estimate are based on limited number of samples and the accuracy of the estimates for entire state depends on the accuracy of the statistical model developed. This issue may be looked into by expert before the pilot project is replicated in the whole country.
4. IASRI was asked to submit status report with soft copy of sample data in each surveyed district and share it with the Ministry. This data will enable the concerned authority to understand the timing of actual survey and its implication for area assessment. District-wise status report should include the following:
 - Status of field survey for area estimate.
 - Status of field survey for production estimate.
 - Development and testing of statistical model to test the methodology.
5. IASRI has shown its inability to complete project by June 2017 so they may require extension. Before considering the request for extension, the detail district-wise report must be submitted.
6. It was told by IASRI that a door to door survey in 10 villages in one district of each State is being done by IASRI for testing the area and production estimation by satellite imagery method. This activity shall be completed immediately.
7. IASRI and MNCFC were asked to take same districts for the study but IASRI has shown inability to match the districts as selection of districts is made on random basis. It is still felt that both the NLAs should work on same districts for comparison and analysis. Hence MNCFC should match the districts selected by IASRI.
8. Against the originally earmarked BE of Rs. 350.00 lakhs, as per the request from IASRI AAP was approved for Rs. 227.80 lakhs, against which 1st installment of Rs. 114.0 lakhs was released. Proposal for 2nd installment is under submission to IFD.

9. The next year AAP should not be like budget provision as nothing can be inferred from AAP. AAP for 2017-18 should be outcome/output based and according IASRI should submit the proposal by 20.03.2017.

Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC)

1. SFAC shall update the progress report on web portal on regular basis.
2. SFAC should complete study on 'Value Chain Analysis' on Onion and 'Potato production and storage estimation' study and submit the report by end of the current financial year.
3. SFAC was asked to furnish the detailed report regarding formation of FPOs in Jharkhand and Bihar. It stated that RI have been appointed for both the states.
4. For the next year AAP SFAC should work on implementation of FPO model, formulation of guidelines for crop and small cluster based FPO, more value chain analysis projects and skill development targets. The revised AAP should be submitted by 20.03.2017.
5. Against the BE of Rs. 1.50 crore, Rs. 75 Lakhs was released on 23.11.2016. No proposal for 2nd release has been received so far.
6. SFAC has mentioned earlier about spill over activities amounting to Rs. 75.00 lakhs (as included in AAP 2016-17) but SFAC has not requested for the same as well as for 2nd installment.

Mahalanobis National Crop Forecast Centre (MNCFC)

1. After observing the report of area and production figure by MNCFC , the issue of high resolution and ground truthing was raised but the reply was vague and subjective. MNCFC should come up with the issue of high resolution satellite data for horticulture area assessment and problems encountered in accessing different horticulture crops on the basis of available satellite data. The report should be crop based.
2. It was told that the production data is being provided to MNCFC by Indian Metrological Department (IMD). Apart from this MNCFC is calculating its own production data by developing statistical model on several parameters like Vegetative Condition Index (VCI) weighted average and historical data of DES. MNCFC was advised to make a comparative analysis to study the deviation between IMD data and MNCFC data.
3. MNCFC was asked to submit a detailed status note at crop-wise and district wise with deviation analysis and actionable points in comparison to state and IASRI estimates..
4. MNCFC reported that they are not having 2015-16 final data and 2016-17 first estimates for the horticulture crops which shows there is lack of co-ordination with Horticulture Statistics Division.
5. On the request of MNCFC, one year extension has been given, but it should be noted that the activities should be completed by 2017-18 as no further extension will be given.
6. IASRI has provided the list of districts selected for the study, MNCFC should ensure that same districts are taken by MNCFC. MNCFC is required to conduct a deviation analysis of

Area and Production data with IASRI data and DES data and should come with the reasons for deviation and possible actionable points.

7. MNCFC has mentioned in its progress report (as on 23.12.2016) that for Banana and Tomato, only 30% of the districts have been covered. Further, on overall basis out of 186 districts only 130 districts have been covered. MNCFC needs to expedite completion of the target.
8. In case of potato crop, 100% districts have been covered and has also given the area and production estimates following are observed:
 - Almost for all the districts area and production estimates by CHAMAN is less than area and production estimates by state.
 - In some the states as Gujarat for 2014-15 the area estimates by CHAMAN is 21% is lesser than those made by state and production is lesser by 33% than the estimate made by state. MNCFC should analyze for possible reasons for differences and come out with suggestions/actionable points. Similar deviation study should also be done for other crops.
9. The next year AAP should not be like budget provision as nothing can be inferred from AAP as far as physical target/achievement is concerned. AAP for 2017-18 should be outcome/output based and accordingly MNCFC should submit the AAP for next year by 20.03.2017.
10. Against the BE of Rs. 4.50 crore, Rs. 2.85 crores has been released (1st release of Rs. 225.0 lakhs on 08.08.2016 & 2nd release of Rs. 60 lakhs on 21.02.17). MNCFC told that no further budget is required for the current financial year.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

List of Participants

S. No.	Name of Participants	Designation	Contact No.
1.	Shri Pankaj Kumar	Chairman	
2.	Shri. D. Bhuyan	Director, SFAC	9811116616
3.	Ms. Richa Singh	Project Assistant, SFAC	
4.	Dr. S. Mamtha	Scientist – SD, MNCFC	9582546699
5.	Dr. M.M. Kimothi	Consultant, MNCFC	9873898036
6.	Dr. Prachi Mishra	Senior Scientist – SD, MNCFC	9868169312
7.	Dr. Tauqueer Ahmad	Head, Division of Sample Survey, IASRI	9350916660
8.	Shri Manikandhan M.	Asst. Director, Spices Board	