

Proceedings of Workshop to discuss MIDH Guidelines held on 24th January, 2014 at New Delhi

A one day workshop was organized under the Chairmanship of Shri D.K. Jain, Additional Secretary, DAC, at New Delhi on 24.01.2014 to discuss the Operational Guidelines of Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH). During the workshop, presentations were made on the following issues:

S. No.	Topic	Speaker
1.	MIDH : Operational Strategies and Implementation Guidelines.	Shri Sanjeev Chopra, JS (NHM)
2.	NHB schemes and accreditation of Nurseries	Shri R.K. Tiwari, MD, NHB
3.	Farmer Producer Organizations & VIUC	Shri Pravesh Sharma, MD, SFAC
4.	National Bamboo Mission	Shri Sanjay Kumar, DDG
5.	Enhancing production and productivity of Horticulture Crops	Dr. S.K. Malhotra, Horticulture Commissioner
6.	Coconut Development Board Schemes	Shri T.K. Jose, Chairman, CDB
7.	Cold Chain Infrastructure & PHM	Shri Pawanexh Kohli, Advisor, NCCD
8.	HMNEH Scheme and National Bee Board	Shri S.K. Singhla, Director (HMNEH)
9.	Preparation of Annual Action Plan for 2014-15	Ms Anuradha Vemuri, Additional Commissioner (NHM)
10.	Protected Cultivation	Shri Alok Mishra, SPD, NCPAAH

In his opening remarks, Additional Secretary, DAC said that while physical progress was important, it was necessary to ensure that financial achievements were reported in the prescribed formats and within the scheduled time. He stressed upon the need to ensure proper and correct financial management of the ongoing schemes. He requested Mission Directors to initiate the process of appointment of Auditors for auditing the expenditure for 2013-14 and ensure timely submission of compliance reports on audit observations. He emphasized that time lines for submitting audited UC had to be strictly followed, and that unless audited UCs were submitted by September, 2014, the release of second instalment may be withheld. He also suggested that a workshop could be organized for training and orientation of CAs appointed for auditing expenditure for 2013-14 to make them aware about the nature of the different schemes and the documents required. He also requested the States to deploy ICT tools for effective book keeping and maintenance of accounts. He highlighted the efforts made by SHM Andhra Pradesh in operationalising Hortnet for online transfer of funds to beneficiary account.

Joint Secretary (NHM) complimented the Mission Directors and NLAs for their contribution in achieving record production in the horticulture sector. He then highlighted in a presentation (**Annexure A**) the salient features of MIDH scheme which would come into effect from 01.04.2014. In the course of the presentation, he pointed out that subsidy under MIDH was meant to reduce the credit burden on beneficiaries and should not be seen as a means for project financing. Commending the initiatives of Haryana and Odisha in establishment of PHM and cold chain infrastructure etc., he exhorted all States to take up innovative steps for development of horticulture sector. He mentioned the need for states to undertake diversification of produce (e.g. onions/ potato) through FLDs, while also making efforts to strengthen data collection for proper monitoring of area and production of major crops viz., onion, potato, tomato etc. He also stressed the need to organize special training / skill development programmes for SC/ST beneficiaries thereby enabling enhanced utilization of funds earmarked for these components. He also suggested that States explore additional resources from schemes including MGNREG, RKVY, Border Area Development Programme etc., as per state specific needs. He requested HMNEH States to initiate the process of constituting State

Horticulture Missions in a time bound manner for implementation of schematic activities. All four Mini Missions (MM) viz. MM-1, MM-2, MM-3 and MM-4 would henceforth be merged and implemented directly by the Horticulture Division of DAC. Proposals for food processing from Himalayan States would also come for approval to the Empowered Committee (EMC) / Executive Committee (EC) of MIDH.

Managing Director, NHB highlighted the details of programmes to be implemented by NHB under MIDH scheme during XII Plan. He requested the State representatives to involve the Grower Associations promoted by NHB. He also stressed the need to accredit the nurseries in a time bound manner. He suggested the need to have parity in cost norms between NHM/HMNEH sub scheme and NHB sub scheme for ripening chambers and inclusion of primary processing under PHM. He also suggested the need for doing away with maximum area ceiling of 8000 Sq.m under protected cultivation. Copy of presentation is enclosed at **Annexure B**.

During discussion on NHB schemes, Director of Horticulture, Himachal Pradesh mentioned that some projects submitted to NHB were pending and requested NHB to look into the matter and expediting action in the matter.

Deputy Director General (Bamboo), in his presentation (**Annexure C**), highlighted the salient features of NBM scheme involving components of R&D, production of planting material, area expansion including improvement of existing stock and marketing of bamboo products. He also mentioned the steps being taken for introducing certification system for bamboo planting material and base line survey for bamboo plantation.

Managing Director, SFAC informed that DAC had initiated steps to promote and strengthen farmer producer organizations (FPOs) to integrate farmers into agriculture value chains. Over 1.5 lakh farmers had been mobilized into 7415 FIGs and 93 FPOs since 2011-12. He also highlighted that 2014 had been declared as the Year of FPOs and also highlighted the key features of the newly launched Central sector Credit Guarantee Fund and Equity Guarantee Fund scheme. He also mentioned the achievements under Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters (VIUC) since 2011-12 which had helped address supply chain issues of vegetables in the identified Metro cities. Copy of the presentation is at **Annexure D**.

Horticulture Commissioner, in his presentation (**Annexure E**), elaborated upon the use of advanced technology to augment production and productivity of horticulture crops. He emphasised upon the need for adopting the latest technologies developed by ICAR including protected cultivation, fertigation, for enhancing crop productivity. He also outlined the strategies for implementation of HMNEH in NE and Himalayan States.

Chairman, CDB presented the salient features of CDB schemes proposed to be implemented under MIDH during XII Plan (**Annexure F**). He elaborated the achievements of CDB in promoting coconut cultivation and marketing of coconut & coconut based products, which has enabled India to emerge as a leader in coconut sector. He suggested the need for including the ongoing components under Technology Mission on Coconut besides enhancing the cost norms for activities under Production & Distribution of Planting Material, Area Expansion and Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme.

Advisor, NCCD, explained the various interventions provided under MIDH scheme to strengthen market linked supply chain practices of horticulture produce. He stressed the need to build strong cold chain for horticulture rather than focusing on stand alone cold storages.

Director, HMNEH stressed upon key interventions under the National Bee Board and also urged North-East States to ensure focussed attention on uploading progress report on State web sites by the 5th of every month and proactively ensure furnishing of replies to pending issues in a timely manner.

Additional Commissioner (NHM) stressed upon the SHMs to adhere to time lines in submitting AAP 2014-15 in respect of NHM, HMNEH and NBM schemes, based on tentative outlays which would be communicated to States for preparation of AAP 2014-15. She also emphasized that due diligence be ensured in submission of physical and financial progress reports, including Audit reports and utilization certificates by States.

Senior Project Director, NCPAAH explained the salient features of plasticulture applications in horticulture, including pond lining, protected cultivation and vermi composting under MIDH scheme.

Representative from SHM, Gujarat mentioned that variations in the technical specifications for green house structures brought out NHB and NCPAAH need to be clarified, to ensure uniformity in cost norms. SPD, NCPAAH clarified that the specification provided by NCPAAH to the State was on the basis of a specific query and should be considered in this light. It was however, agreed that specifications in this regard would be reviewed by NCPAAH to ensure uniformity. Representative of SHM, Haryana raised the issue regarding inclusion of cost of irrigation system in green houses. On this, SPD, NCPAAH clarified that cost of irrigation system is included in the cost of green house and shade net structures.

Mission Director, SHM, Odisha requested enhancement in cost norms for fruits and floriculture, due to increase in cost of planting material. It was clarified that cost norms indicated in the operational guidelines indicated upper limit of cost for calculation of subsidy.

During the course of the deliberations of the Workshop, following issues were raised with regard to MIDH guidelines.

- Assistance for R & D Projects to be specified as Rs. 100.00 lakh/project.
- Upper limit per beneficiary need to be specified for high density planting.
- Pattern of assistance for strawberry and papaya to be modified to indicate payment of subsidy in one instalment.
- Standards need to be mentioned for HDPE vermi compost.
- Betlevine need to be included. It was, however, clarified that it could be covered under norms for cost-intensive aromatic plants.
- Provision need to be kept for construction of community bore wells, as provision for this existed during XI Plan in HMNEH scheme.

- Liliium flower need to be included along with rose for meeting cost of planting material under protected cultivation. Moreover, area ceiling needs to be 4000 sq. m, instead of 1000 sq. m., as indicated for this item.
- Term INM need also be included along with IPM under promotion of INM/IPM.
- Pattern of assistance for tubular structure, under protected cultivation, has been restricted to 5 units of 800 sq. m. for beneficiary. Instead, it could be upto 4000 sq. m. per beneficiary. Walk in tunnels could, however, be 5 units of 800 sq. m. per beneficiary.
- Plastic lining for community tanks of size larger than 20mx20m should be 500 microns, instead of 300 microns.
- Parity need to be maintained in cost norms between NHM and NHB schemes, particularly PHM and Awareness programmes.

It was decided that all these issues & others raised in different presentations would be examined by Horticulture division and appropriate decision would be taken later communicated.

JS and Mission Director reiterated the need to organise workshops in NE States, particularly for preparing project based proposals.

In his concluding remarks, Additional Secretary emphasized the need to adhere to the time lines in submitting Annual Action Plans for 2014-15. He also reiterated the need to focus on quality planting material and creation of infrastructure for PHM and marketing.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.

PS: While presentations are part of the proceedings, these are not being enclosed with the minutes, but are available on web site (www.nhm.nic.in).