

Minutes of the Meeting held on 19.8.2011 to review the implementation of National Horticulture Mission programme in Jharkhand

Preliminary

A review meeting was held on 19-8-2011 under the Chairmanship of Shri Sanjeev Chopra, Joint Secretary & Mission Director (NHM) to review the implementation of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) programme in the State of Jharkhand. The meeting was attended by Shri Shailendra Kumar, Director (NHM), Dr. B. S. Negi, Deputy Commissioner (NHM), Shri S. K. Kaul, Assistant Director (NHM) and the Chief Consultants of NHM. From Jharkhand, Dr. Prabhakar Singh, Director Horticulture & Mission Director (SHM) attended the meeting.

Opening Remarks

At the outset, Chairman in his opening remarks mentioned that a programme of the magnitude of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) should create a visible impact in the lives of the farmers. For ensuring this, an integrated approach involving production, post harvest management and development of market infrastructure needed to be adopted. He further stressed the need for ensuring forward and backward linkages and all-round development of the identified clusters. He enquired about the thrust areas and larger vision for the development of horticulture in the State and the status of requirement of planting material, availability and measures taken to fill up the gaps, if any, during the ensuing planting season. The details about the availability of technical staff to implement the programme were also sought.

State Presentation

Dr. Prabhakar Singh made a detailed presentation about the implementation of NHM programme in the State. He mentioned that there was a vast potential for horticulture development in the State. Out of total cultivable area of 38 lakh ha in the State, 1.7 lakh ha was under fruits and 4 lakh ha was under vegetables. There was about 15.61 lakh ha area under fallow land, which could be utilized for horticulture. After launching of NHM, substantial area had been brought under fruits and vegetables. State had 587 sanctioned staff in Horticulture Department; out of which, about 527 was technical staff. At present, 458 posts are vacant. District Horticulture Officers are posted only in 13 districts and programme was being implemented through identified NGOs. In each village one Udyan Mitra had been appointed, who also collected the data on horticulture.

Planting Material

He informed that there was shortage of planting material for Mango (more than 3 lakh plants), Litchi and Cashew in the State. After meeting the requirement from the Government / Departmental nurseries, SAUs and ICAR institutes and balance was being procured through NSC. However, NSC had been asked to procure the planting material from the approved nurseries only. Out of total 38 nurseries set up under NHM, none were accredited, so far. In this connection it was decided that SHM may provide the list of

Nurseries to NHB so that it can take up the task of accreditation in the State. He also presented the progress made during 2005-06 to 2010-11 and 2011-12. The AAP2011-12 was approved for Rs. 60 crore and an amount of Rs. 25 crore was released, against which the State had incurred an expenditure of Rs. 19.21 crore.

Post Harvest Management

Regarding the slow progress under Post Harvest Management (PHM) component, Mission Director informed that as the projects were cost intensive, people were not coming forward. In this connection, Director (NHM), suggested that SHM may convene the meeting of Bankers to facilitate loan to the farmers and entrepreneurs for PHM and other projects and also make wide publicity about this through print and electric media.

Terminal Market

Regarding the status of Terminal Market in the State Mission Director informed that some progress had been made in the matter. In this connection, it was decided that a DO letter may be written by JS (NHM) to Principal Secretary (Agriculture), Jharkhand to expedite the progress of Terminal Market.

Convergence

Regarding the convergence of NHM programmes with other programmes, Dr Singh informed that though under NHM many water harvesting structures had been constructed, there was no convergence with the Micro-Irrigation. In this connection it was suggested that SHM may provide the details of the measures taken under NHM for creation of water sources. Thereafter, matter will be taken with the concerned authorities in the State. It was also suggested that SHM may identify the clusters preferably in those areas, which had been covered under the Watershed Development Programmes. Regarding the other issues indicated in the Agenda items, SHM was asked to furnish point wise response to this Department within a Week.

Salient decisions which emerged from the deliberation are summarized below:

1. SHM should make efforts to fill up the vacant post immediately. To start with, technical staff should be engaged on contractual basis.
2. Production and supply of quality planting material should receive the highest priority. There was huge gap of planting material of more than 3 lakh in mango. SHM should take stock of the requirement of planting material for the ensuing planting season and make them available to the farmers at reasonable rates. A mechanism should be put in place before the planting season, to identify and certify the nurseries in the public and private sector, which are in a position to supply the planting material. Availability of the planting material and its source of supply should be widely published for the benefit of the farmers.
3. SHM will provide the list of Nurseries to NHB so that it can take up the task of accreditation of Nurseries in the State.

4. There was a variation in the expenditure figures reported by the SHM as per the utilization certificates and what has been reported on the website. This needs to be reconciled.
5. State needs to provide details of State share released so far during Eleventh Plan.
6. Beneficiary-wise list of SC/ST and Women Farmers covered under NHM.
7. SHM needs to properly monitor the infrastructure projects and vegetable seed production programme sanctioned to Birsa Agriculture University, Ranchi.
8. Since large areas are being brought under horticulture crops under the NHM, SHM should keep record on the area diversified from agricultural crops to horticulture as well as areas converted from wastelands into horticulture.
9. The SHMs should maintain bench mark data as in 2004-05 about the area, production, productivity and other available important facilities at the District level
10. DO letter from JS(NHM) will be written to Principal Secretary (Agriculture) Jharkhand, to expedite the progress of Terminal Market.
11. SHM will identify the clusters preferably in those areas, which have been covered under the Watershed Development Programmes. SHM will provide the details of the measures taken under NHM for creation of water sources. Thereafter, NHM authorities will take up the matter with the concerned authorities in the State to ensure convergence with NMMI.
12. SHM should also conduct Impact Evaluation Study through independent organization of repute in the State and submit report to DAC.
13. The Annual Report and Success Stories to be documented by the SHM and submitted to DAC.
14. SHM will furnish point wise response on the issues indicated in the Agenda items, to this Department within a Week.

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