

Minutes of the meeting held on 30.8.2011 to review the progress of implementation of NHM Scheme in Kerala

Preliminary

A meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Sanjeev Chopra, Joint Secretary (NHM) on 30.8.2011 to review the progress of implementation of NHM Scheme in the State of Kerala. Shri Shailendra Kumar, Director (NHM), Dr. B.S Negi, Deputy Commissioner (NHM), Ms Sadhna Khanna, US (NHM) and Chief Consultants of NHM were present from DAC. Dr. K. Prathapan, Mission Director, SHM, Kerala participated from the State side.

Opening Remarks

The Chairman, at the outset stressed the need for the SHM to have a proper vision and road map for the development of horticulture in the State. SHM should project the contribution of horticulture in agriculture GDP of the State for pooling more resources for development of horticulture in the State. To achieve the desired results, State should have sufficient staff strength. Moreover, a cluster approach should be adopted for ensuring backward and forward linkages and convergence should be ensured with other programmes viz. RKVY, MNREGA, APEDA, MoFPI, State Plan schemes etc He suggested that the efforts needed to be made to develop farmer groups in the identified clusters. He further mentioned that the state should make an assessment of crop wise availability of planting material being produced and surplus through the nurseries in the public sector. The nurseries should be got accredited through NHB, so that sourcing of planting material could be done only from such accredited nurseries. He also suggested that an integrated approach needed to be follow for ensuring development horticulture in the identified clusters.

State Presentation

MD SHM, Kerala handed over the Annual Reports for the years 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11. Thereafter, MD, SHM Kerala, in his presentation

highlighted that the agricultural GDP in the State was to the tune of 17% share of which the contribution of horticulture in the agriculture GDP was about 58%.

On enquiry by Director (NHM) whether horticulture GDP includes tea, coffee and rubber, MD mentioned that with the inclusion of tea, coffee and rubber, the contribution of horticulture in GDP will be the tune of 70%. He agreed to furnish the sector wise breakup.

MD, SHM, further, gave an overview of the achievement under NHM in the State under various components. She also requested for releases of 2nd installment of funds, as they have exhausted the first release.

Based on the discussions, the following decisions were taken:

1. SHM, Kerala will furnish a copy of the letter indicating the releases made by the State Government during the current financial year.
2. SHM is having sufficient stock of planting material. No procurement of planting material is being made through tender. The SHM has initiated the process for accrediting the nurseries for which the list of nurseries have be provided to NHB. The matter needs to be followed up with NHB.
3. Convergence with NAREGA has been ensured for pitting and planting of banana.
4. Most of the cultivation is taken up on leased land. However, the State does not have a legal frame work for leasing of land. A letter needs to be written to the State Govt. to permit contract farming of horticultural crops.
5. Spices Board is implementing programme for area expansion of pepper, as a NLA. During a recent review by AS (P), it emerged that the progress by Spices Board under Kuttanad Package and Idukki package was poor. It was decided to review the matter with Spice Board during the review meeting with NLAs. Dates, in this regard, will be decided and communicated.

6. It has also been observed that slow progress and under achievement in Micro-Irrigation in the State can be addressed by transferring Micro-Irrigation work to Horticulture Department. This would be taken up with Agriculture Production Commission accordingly.
7. SHM will make efforts to introduced Apis Mellifera variety of bees under the beekeeping component of NHM.
8. SHM will ensure uploading of monthly physical and financial progress at the District level on the NHM web site.
9. SHM has reported over achievement under some of the components. They need to reconcile the figures and upload the progress as per the audited statement of expenditure.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. SHM will provide suitable reply on Horticulture Crop Insurance taken up by this Division.
13. SHM should also conduct Impact Evaluation Study through independent organization of repute in the State and submit report to DAC.
14. SHM will furnish point wise response on the issues indicated in the Agenda items, synoptic data-base proforma and PHM information proforma to this Department within a Week.
15. The Annual Report and Success Stories to be documented by the SHM and submitted to DAC.

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