

Minutes of the meeting held on 13.2.2012 regarding Year of Horticulture Celebrations

A meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Sanjeev Chopra, Joint Secretary (NHM) on 13th February, 2012 at Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi to chalk out the course of action for celebrating 'Year of Horticulture (YoH) 2012-13' by various National Level Agencies (NLAs) under National Horticulture Mission (NHM). Besides, representative from NLAs, Dr B.S.Negi, Deputy Commissioner (NHM), Ms Sadhna Khanna,US(NHM), Shri S.K Kaul, AD(NHM) and , Chief Consultants(NHM) were present from the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the participants. Thereafter, he requested the representatives of NLAs to make presentation on the proposed activities planned by them during the course of the year 2012-13 in connection with YOH celebrations.

IFFCO Foundation

Shri Lallan Singh, Consultant, IFFCO Foundation made a presentation on the proposed activities to be undertaken by IFFCO Foundation during 2012-13, which covered various events related to planting material, post harvest management, and HRD to be taken up in three States of Bihar, Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh, where IFFCO Foundation has been operating under NHM.

The Chairman observed that the action plan need to be drawn with specific measurable indicators, duly supported with the budget provision. He further, added that since IFFCO will be celebrating Year of Cooperatives during the ensuing year, IFFCO Foundation should join hands with them for organizing a National Conference on 'Role of Cooperatives in Development of Horticulture'. This Conference may be organized sometime in September, 2012, preferably at Lucknow.

National Committee on Plasticulture Applications in Horticulture (NCPAH)

Shri Krish Iyengar, JS (NCPAH) made a presentation wherein he highlighted that NCPAH would undertake about 34 events covering Seminars, Workshops, Conferences and Exhibition of which, 14 events will be organized by the NCPAH themselves directly while another 20 events will be organized along with other agencies like Precision Farming Development Centres (PFDC) and State Government. The total budget requirement will be to the tune of Rs. 167 lakh. The activities will culminate by organizing an International Conference on Precision Farming, 2020- Status & Prospects, in March, 2013 at New Delhi.

The proposed activities were agreed to with the stipulation that the budget provision should be made in accordance with the Operational Guidelines of NHB, NHM and NMMI schemes.

State Farms Cooperation of India (SFCI)

Manager, SFCI highlighted the role being played by SFCI in producing seeds and planting material of various horticultural crops. He also mentioned about the problem being faced by them in marketing the planting material produced by them.

Shri Pravesh Sharma, MD, SFAC mentioned that SFCI should concentrate on creating State-of-the-art facilities for producing planting material and they should upscale the level of production for ensuring supply of quality planting material on a sustainable basis. States like Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh are in short supply of planting material. He enquire whether SFCI would be in a position to make arrangements for supplying planting material in these States, it was mentioned that since, presently, SFCI is operating in their own farms in Rajasthan, it may not be feasible for them to take up planting material development work in other States.

The Chairman requested SFCI to recast their proposal by quantifying specific deliverable activities which they would like to undertake during 2012-13.

Directorate of Cashew & Cocoa Development (DCCD)

Shri Venkatesh Hubballi, Director, DCCD), made a presentation in which he highlighted the proposed activities to be undertaken by DCCD during the course of 2012-13. They would be taking up promotional activities along with programmes on nursery establishment, area expansion, replanting, contract farming, organic certification, popularization of cashew apple and HRD on cashew and cocoa. National Seminars on cashew is proposed to be organized at Goa in May, 2012 and a National Seminar on Cocoa is proposed to be organized at Mysore in October, 2012. The Chairman appreciated the presentation and requested DCCD to go ahead with the programmes.

National Horticulture Board (NHB)

Dr. NC Mistry, Additional Managing Director NHB mentioned that the NHB would be taking up a number of activities involving flagging off the First Horticulture Train in March, 2012, organizing Regional Fruit Festivals such as Kesar Mango Festival, New Delhi (May, 2012) and Litchi Festival (June 2012) at Mumbai, Jabalpur, Amritsar, and Bangalore. They would also organize a Buyer seller meet on Saffron at Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Trivandrum, Nursery Rating Workshop for North Eastern States, IPM sample testing programme, and Mango Productivity Increase Extension programme. Besides, they would be taking up activities like Entrepreneurs Conference for Promoting Forward Linkages for Floriculture Projects for Jaipur-Kota region of Rajasthan and Bilaspur region of Himachal Pradesh, Networking of Plant Disease Forecasting Labs set up under NHM (April 2012). They would also be taking up cultivation of horticulture crops in newly developed command area of Changer Project in the hills of Naina-devi temple in Bassi Tehsil of

Bilaspur district of Himachal Pradesh in February, 2012. A National Seminar on Horticulture Logistics, programmes relating to cold chain management involving Graduate Engineer Certificate courses, Cold Storage Operator Training Courses and Refer Transport Operator Training Courses will also be organized in different batches. An International Convention on cold chain management will be organized in April, 2012.

Spices Board

Shri S. Siddaramappa, Director (Development), Spices Board, Cochin informed that they will be organising a National level conference on Spices in the month of April, 2012 at Shillong and another conference on Pepper in Idukki, Kerala in the month of June-July, 2012. For Cardamom, a work shop on pesticide residues is being organised on 16th March, 2012 at Cochin and on seed spices on 20th March, 2012 in any one of the SAU in Gujarat. Venue is yet to be finalised. Farmers field day will be organised in Karnataka in February, 2013 to demonstrate scientific harvesting and post harvest handling and processing.

Small Farmers Agri Business Consortium (SFAC)

Shri Pravesh Sharma, MD, SFAC highlighted the activities proposed to be taken up by them during 2012-13. The activities include development of a portal on market intelligence on onion, development of portal for e-trading of vegetables and other horticultural commodities. A National Conference on Farmer Industry linkage in Horticulture is proposed to be organized in May, 2012 followed by a National Conference in collaboration with NABARD during September, 2012 on Bringing together various financial institutions, civil society and farmers to explore innovative solution to meet the needs of farmers. They also propose to organize a study tour of State Govt. Officials to Israel in May, 2012.

The Chairman requested MD, SFAC to reschedule the National Conference on Integration of Farmers, to April, 2012 and to organize the visit to Israel sometime in September- October, 2012, which was agreed to.

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