

Minutes of the meeting held on 29.8.2011 to review the progress of implementation of NHM Scheme in Rajasthan

Preliminary

A meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Shri Sanjeev Chopra, Joint Secretary (NHM) on 29.2011 to review the progress of implementation of NHM Scheme in the State of Rajasthan. Dr Gorakh Singh, Horticulture Commissioner, 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. Shri Jagroop Singh, Mission Director and Shri Sita Ram Jat, Deputy Director (SHM), participated from the State.

Opening Remarks

At the outset, Chairman stressed the need for the SHM to have a pro per 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. He suggested that efforts needed to be made to develop farmer groups in the identified clusters. He also stressed the need to accredit existing nurseries in the State through NHB so that sourcing of planting material could be done only from such accredited nurseries. He also wanted to know the efforts made by the SHM towards convergence of NHM with other schemes of APEDA, MoFPI, MNEGS, RKVY, NMMI, BADP, SC/ST Department etc.

Horticulture Commissioner made a thorough review with regard to the requirement of quality planting material for various focussed crops identified for development in the State, availability and measures taken to fill up the gaps, if any, during the ensuing planting season. He discussed about the quality grafted disease free planting material of fruit crops and availability of scion stock for multiplication of desired varieties of fruit crops. He also asked about the varieties being used for crops like pomegranate, bael, ber, aonla etc. He suggested that State Mission Director should make special efforts to provide grafted seedlings of major fruit crops to meet the target of area expansion programme during 2011-12. He further suggested that all nurseries should maintain mother block properly for future need of planting

material and for the crops like bael and aonla scion material can be procured from CISH, Lucknow and NDUAT, Faizabad. He informed that wedge grafting will help rapid multiplication of planting material.

Regarding pollination support through Bee Keeping, Dr. Saraswat, Executive Director, NBB informed that in the many States including Rajasthan, only 4 frame bee colonies were distribute to untrained farmers/ beekeepers, which has resulted in the mortality. However, during last 2-3 years, NBB has trained 250 farmers and exposure visit to outside State was arranged for 150 bee keepers. In Rajasthan, there was problem of availability of nucleus stock. Further, there were issues of harassment of bee-keepers at traffic check-post/police nakka in the State during transportation of colonies and honey. In this connections Chairman suggested that we need to write letters to District Collectors and Superintendent of Police (SP) in the concerned districts, the list of the same would be given by the ED, NBB.

State Presentation

Shri Jagroop Singh, Mission Director, Rajasthan mentioned that in Rajasthan contribution from Agriculture to the State GDP was 16%, out which 3% share comes from Horticulture. Thereafter, Shri Sita Ram, Deputy Director (SHM) gave an overview of the achievement made under NHM in the State under various components. Regarding planting material, he informed that the RAJHANS Society (Govt. Society) is responsible for production and distribution of planting material in the State through its network of nurseries and also procuring through SAUs and registered private nurseries. Chairman suggested that NHB may be requested to organize a Workshop on Nursery Act and accreditation of nurseries. Chairman also suggested that SHM may take up the matter with the concerned authorities to ensure convergence of NHM with the programmes of BADP and SC/ST Department/Cooperation. Regarding National Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters he informed that the work of baseline survey and formation of farmers group in progress. However, the aggregator (Hariyali Kissan Bazar) has not taken interest in the matter so far.

Based on the discussions, the following decisions were taken:

1. The SHM will immediately provide list of nurseries in the State to NHB for accrediting the nurseries and also follow up the matter with NHB. SHM will procure scion material of bael and aonla from CISH, Lucknow and NDUAT, Faizabad.
2. NHB will be requested to organize a Workshop on Nursery Act and accreditation of nurseries.

3. SHM may take up the matter with the concerned authorities to ensure convergence of NHM with the programmes of MNREGS, APEDA, MoFPI, BADP and SC/ST Department/Cooperation.
4. SHM will ensure the availability of nucleus stock for production of bee colonies by the bee breeders. To sort out the issue of harassment during transportation of colonies and honey in the Rajasthan and other States, DO letter from JS (NHM)/ Director (NHM) will be written to District Collectors and Superintendent of Police (SP) of the concerned districts. ED, NBB will provide the list of districts to NHM.
5. SHM will ensure uploading of monthly physical and financial progress at the District level on the NHM web site.
6. 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.
7. Beneficiary-wise list of SC/ST and Women Farmers covered under NHM may be provided.
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. Bench mark data as in 2004-05 about the area, production, productivity and other available important facilities at the District level should also be maintained.
9. SHM will identify the clusters preferably in those areas, which have been developed under the Watershed Development Programmes to ensure convergence, especially for creation of water sources.
10. SHM should also conduct Impact Evaluation Study through independent organization of repute in the State and submit report to DAC.
11. The Annual Report and Success Stories to be documented by the SHM and submitted to DAC.
12. SHM will provide suitable reply on Horticulture Crop Insurance taken up by this Division.
13. 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.

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

