

Minutes of the meeting held under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary and Mission Director (NHM) on 24.08.2011 to review NHM scheme in Uttar Pradesh.

Preliminary

A meeting was held on 24.8.2011 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 Uttar Pradesh. The meeting was attended by Dr. Gorakh Singh, Horticulture Commissioner, Dr. B.S. Negi, Deputy Commissioner (NHM) and the Chief Consultants of NHM from DAC. Shi Dinesh Chandra, Director (Horticulture) & State Mission Director, Sri S.P. Joshi, Joint Director and Sri V.B.Yadav, Nodal Officer, PHM from Uttar Pradesh attended the meeting.

Opening Remarks

At the outset, Chairman welcomed the participants and enquired about the thrust areas and larger vision for the development of horticulture in the State, share of horticulture in Agriculture GDP and details about the availability of technical staff to implement the programme in the State.

Horticulture Commissioner made a thorough review with regard to the requirement of planting material for various focus 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 available of scion stock for multiplication of desired varieties of fruit crops. 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. He informed that wedge grafting will help rapid multiplication of planting material. The planting material should be sourced from reputed nurseries from private sector.

State Presentation

Sri Dinesh Chandra, Director (Horticulture) made presentation to show the progress of different components supported under NHM in the State. Director Horticulture clarified about the staff positions and informed that the total sanctioned strength was 3750, out of which 900 were technical persons. About 20 to 25 % post were vacant. The contribution of Horticulture in GDP was about 1/3rd of Agriculture GDP.

During the year 2011-12 area expansion programme of Mango is to cover an area of 1705 ha, out of which 55 ha are under high density (5m x 5m) plantation and rest are under normal density. State needed 2.6 lakh grafted seedlings of mango and the state is having about 5.71 lakh grafted seedlings of mango which were in excess of the need. State might spare about 50,000 grafted mango planting material to other states. Sri S.P. Joshi, Joint Director informed that the guava and litchi planting material is in short by 98,000 grafted seedlings and 15,000 layered

seedlings respectively. About 78 ha area is under high density guava plantation and remaining 2105 ha is to take for normal planting (6m x 6m) of variety L-49, Allahabad Safeda, Sweta and Lalit.

Chairman stressed the need for establishing need based banana ripening chambers in the State on priority basis, since large area of tissue culture banana variety G9 was being planted in the state. Chairman also stressed the need for accreditation of all the nurseries from National Horticulture Board. Jt. Director (Hort.), U.P presented the planting material scenario of the State. He informed that the State was having excess grafted seedlings of Mango and Aonla. However, there is shortage of planting material of Guava and Litchi in the State. State Mission Director informed that balance planting material of Guava and Litchi are being procured through tenders and for which orders had already been placed. Horticulture Commissioner suggested that SHM should not procure any planting material on tender basis, as it would affect the quality and it should be stopped. If it is done on tender basis quality parameters should be made stringent and in detail. Area expansion needed to be restricted in case genuine planting material is not available.

The progress of rejuvenation of senile orchards was also reviewed and it was suggested that more efforts should be made to increase area under rejuvenation of Mango, Guava and Aonla. The work on high density planting and canopy management being done in district Banaras was appreciated, which needed to be replicated in other areas also.

State Mission Director requested the Horticulture Commissioner to visit Lucknow at his convenience to provide technical input for preparation of Road map for future development of Horticulture in the State.

Post Harvest Management

State Mission Director informed that there were about 608 mandis in the state but there were no separate mandis for marketing of fruits and vegetables. Chairman asked specifically about Aonla marketing in Jhansi where it was informed that farmers made distress sale last year. He suggested to make more efforts for establishing processing unit for Aonla and also to establish separate mandis for fruits/ vegetables. Since the APMC Act has not been amended in the state, it was suggested that at least state could make provision for exempting the perishables from the market fee. He emphasized that all the clusters should have marketing support for better price realization by farmers. State Mission Director informed that tissue culture Banana plants are being supplied at Rs.14 .00 per plant at different locations which were being directly procured from tissue culture units which are accredited by the DBT. Chairman raised the issue of price fixing mechanism and asked to be more authentic to procure quality planting material after adopting all procedures.

Three AEZs were established in the State for promotion of exports of mango(Saharanpur and nearing districts and Lucknow and nearing districts) and for potato(Agra and nearing districts). However, presently AEZs are non functional. U.P. Horticulture Cooperative Marketing Federation is organizing horticulture

producers as user-groups/ SHGs/Primary Societies for facilitating marketing of perishable produce.

Convergence

State Mission Director informed that MNREGA provided Rs 75 crores funding to Horticulture Department for horticultural developmental activities in the State.

Chairman suggested that all the bee keepers in the State should be registered with the National Bee Board and State should appoint a nodal officer for this. He also suggested providing technological support to the orchards of absentee land lords through technical professionals which would help in increasing productivity and employment generation. Chairman informed that the micro irrigation programme is not working satisfactorily and there is need to make extra efforts in this direction.

Summary decisions which emerged from the deliberations are as under:

1. SHM will supply surplus planting material of mango to the needy states like MP, Bihar and Jharkhand.
2. To procure planting material, tendering process should be devised in such way so that only quality planting material is procured. In case, genuine planting material is not available, area expansion programme may be restricted. JS(NHM) will write to the competent authority in the State in this regard.
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. Large areas are being brought under horticulture corps under MNAREGS as about 30 % of the funds earmarked under this scheme could be used for area expansion activities. Therefore, area expansion activity under NHM could be scaled down for providing more focus on infrastructure development for PHM and marketing.
5. There is need for establishing need based banana ripening chambers in the State on priority basis, since large area of tissue culture banana variety G9 is planted in the state. The issue of price fixing mechanism should be more authentic to procure quality planting material after adopting all procedures. Quality parameters should be put in detail with stringent conditions.
6. Since the APMC Act has not been amended in the State, provision could be made by the State or exempting the perishables from the market fee.
7. There was achievement in some of the components, which have not been approved in the Action Plan. SHM will furnish the physical and financial progress in accordance with the Audited Statement of Accounts.
8. State needs to provide details of State share released so far during Eleventh Plan.
9. SHM will, further, arrange to get the progress from the districts through the web enabled progress monitoring system of NHM in compliance to

the letter written by Secretary (A&C) to the Chief Secretary on 8.8.2011.

10. Beneficiary-wise list of SC/ST and Women Farmers covered under NHM may be provided.
11. 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.
12. 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
13. SHM will identify the clusters preferably in those areas, which have been developed under the Watershed Development Programmes to ensure convergence.
14. SHM should also conduct Impact Evaluation Study through independent organization of repute in the State and submit report to DAC.
15. The Annual Report and Success Stories to be documented by the SHM and submitted to DAC.
16. 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.

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F. No. 33-62/2011 – Hort
Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture & Cooperation
(Horticulture Division)

434, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-1
Dated 2nd September, 2011

Sub: Minutes of the Meeting held on 24.8.2011 to review the implementation of National Horticulture Mission programme in Uttar Pradesh- regarding

Please find enclosed the minutes of the Meeting held on 24.8.2011 under the Chairmanship of Shri Sanjeev Chopra, Joint Secretary & Mission Director (NHM) to review the implementation of National Horticulture Mission programme in Uttar Pradesh for information and necessary action.

State Horticulture Mission is requested to initiate necessary follow up action on the action points and furnish the action taken report to this Department at the earliest.

(B. S. Negi)
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Distribution

1. All participants
2. Mission Director, State Horticulture Mission, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow

