

# MECHANIZATION & TECHNOLOGY

- In the opening remarks, **Secretary (A&C)** stressed on, besides other issues, increasing productivity of wheat growing areas. She also laid emphasis on planned utilization of releases made by the Department under different schemes and to furnish expenditure statements for each Quarter.
- **Director General, ICAR** advised that the States should promote zero-till-seed-cum-fertilizer drill, raised bed planter and ridge maker/seeders. He also laid emphasis on using sugarcane cutter planter and inter-cropping. Custom hiring of combine harvesters was also emphasized by him.
- **Agriculture Commissioner, DAC**, in his presentation, advocated for promoting zero-tillage technology as it has resulted in higher yield. He informed that it has been targeted to cover about 20 lakh hectares over a period of 3 years through this technology under a programme “Enhancing Production & Productivity of Wheat”. He further informed that under this programme, diesel subsidy to the tune of Rs.500/- per hectare and 50% subsidy or Rs.8,000/- per hectare will be provided on sprinkler sets.
- The Government of **Andhra Pradesh**, in its presentation, informed that Farm Mechanisation has been identified as one of the focus areas in the State and efforts have been made for effective input management for the programme.
- The Government of **Arunachal Pradesh** informed that Farm Mechanisation has been undertaken at large scale and tractor, power tiller, reaper, potato planter etc. are being promoted in the State.
- The Government of **Assam** informed that large scale tractorisation in an area of about 154 lakh hectare will be undertaken for timely tillage operations.
- The Government of **Bihar** informed that diesel subsidy has been given to the farmers through panchayats. It was also informed that modernized rice milling is being done in the State. The State requested for enhancing subsidy on zero-till-seed-cum-fertilizer drill to 50% or Rs.15,000/-. The State also informed that a proposal for Rs.80.00 crore has been submitted to GOI for supply of one zero-till-seed-cum-fertilizer drill/happy seeder and one combine harvester for each of 534 blocks at a cost of Rs.15.00 lakh per block. The State Government has proposed to promote maize-based processing industry.
- The Government of **Chhattisgarh** informed that tractor, power tiller, power driven/bullock driven implements are being promoted through subsidy. Custom hiring of agricultural equipment is also being undertaken. It was also informed that one lakh pump sets will be energized in the next two years.

- The Government of **Goa** requested for enhancement of subsidy to the tune of 70% for SHGs. The power tillers and weed cutters are being promoted. The State is also laying emphasis on mechanization for horticultural crops to reduce their cost of cultivation.
- The State Government of **Haryana** informed that the use of zero-till-seed-cum-fertilizer drill is maximum in the State and block level action plan has been prepared for increasing the coverage of area through zero-tillage technology.
- The Government of **Himachal Pradesh** informed that due to socio-economic conditions in the State, farmers are shifting from traditional agriculture to hi-tech horticulture. The State laid stress on post-harvest management and cold storage chain.
- The Government of **Jammu & Kashmir** informed that the State lacks in on-farm storage, grading and quality control in horticulture sector. Secretary (A&C) at this stage, advised that there is need to construct rope ways in J&K for transporting the agriculture/horticulture produce.
- The State Government of **Jharkhand** informed that zero-till-seed-cum-fertilizer drills have been demonstrated under ICDP-Wheat.
- The Government of **Karnataka** laid emphasis on skilled manpower in agriculture sector. The State Government informed that 20 tractors and 20 power tillers are being distributed on subsidy in each Taluka. It was informed that community threshing yards have been constructed in the State.
- The Government of **Kerala** informed that promotion of agriculture mechanisation is one of the measures taken by the State Government for increasing production and productivity.
- The Government of **Madhya Pradesh** has identified mechanisation as one of the Thrust Areas.
- The Government of **Manipur** has undertaken Agricultural Mechanisation in horticulture sector.
- The Government of **Meghalaya** is promoting power tillers under horticulture programmes in the State.
- The State Government of **Mizoram** requested for uniformity of subsidy on power tillers in all the schemes.
- The Government of **Orissa** is laying emphasis on proposal of distribution of rotavators, axial flow thresher, self propelled rice transplanter, post hole digger, zero-till-seed-cum-fertilizer drill, reaper, groundnut digger etc. The State requested for additional funds amounting to Rs. 5.57 crore for Farm Mechanisation Programme during the year 2006-07. The State Government has distributed 258 storage bins, 4,000 sprayers and 200

sprinkler sets. Pit method of planting of sugarcane has been undertaken in an area of 800 hectares.

- The Government of **Punjab** has identified timely transplanting of paddy and sowing of maize with planters as one of the Thrust Areas. The strategy of the State would be to promote zero-till-seed-cum-fertilizer drill, laser land leveller, raised bed planter, Happy Seeder and residue management equipment. The State also informed that zero-tillage technology has not been found suitable in cotton-wheat rotation areas.
- The Government of **Rajasthan** informed that tractors, tractor and other power drawn implements, plant protection equipment and sprinklers have been promoted during 2005-06.
- The Government of **Sikkim** informed that Farm Mechanisation has been undertaken at large scale in the State. Regular interaction with CIAE, Bhopal is also being held for promotion of Farm Mechanisation.
- The Government of **Tamil Nadu** emphasized that productivity enhancement without mechanization is not possible and requested for enhancing subsidy on all agricultural equipment and implements to 50%, especially for SHGs.
- The Government of **Tripura** is giving adequate importance to Farm Mechanisation. The State requested for uniformity on subsidy on power tillers and also that the subsidy on agricultural equipment should be enhanced to 50% in all the NER States.
- The Government of **Uttar Pradesh** informed that sowing by zero-till-seed-cum-fertilizer drill has been planned in an area of about 2 lakh hectares in Merrut and Shahajahanpur regions of the State.
- The Government of **West Bengal** informed that emphasis on direct seeding of paddy is being laid. The farmers are being trained on post-harvest technology related issues. 3700 ha. area has been covered under drip and 9700 ha. area covered under sprinkler irrigation by the horticulture department of the State.
- The States of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Nagaland and Uttaranchal did not mention about any specific issue related to mechanization except on-going programme through Macro Management Scheme.
- **Director (Research), GBPUAT, Pantnagar** stressed the need for propagating zero-tillage seed drill and direct seeding of paddy.
- The representative of **Punjab Agriculture University** informed that Happy Seeder has been developed for sowing wheat even when rice residue is present in the field and emphasized for its popularization.

- **Dr. J.S. Samra, DDG, ICAR** advocated for propagating raised bed planting technology, turbo seeder, Happy Seeder and zero-tillage seeding.
- **Dr. Nawab Ali, DDG(Engg.),ICAR** informed that Happy Seeder need to be popularized. He also emphasized that moisture analyzer for paddy are available which would be helpful in assessing the stage for early harvesting of paddy so that timely sowing of major areas under wheat could be ensured.
- The representative of **Research Centre, Karnal** emphasized on promoting zero-tillage technology.

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