

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana Cell

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE SOUTH ZONAL CONFERENCE TO REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RASHTRIYA KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA (RKVY) HELD ON 7-11-2007 AT HYDERABAD

List of participants is appended at Annexure-I.

At the outset, Shri P K Basu, Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC), Government of India (GOI) explained in brief the background of launching the RKVY Scheme. The objective of holding the five Zonal Conferences at the State capitals / New Delhi was to sensitize and activate the State Governments to implement the RKVY scheme in a time-bound manner in the current year. The present Zonal Conference in Hyderabad for Southern region was the first one.

Shri Pankaj Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation made a brief presentation on the RKVY scheme, inter alia, highlighting the objectives, salient features, eligibility criteria, allocation of funds to Southern States and the time lines to be followed for each activity in the current year as under:

- Constitution and notification of SLSC by 3.11.2007;
- Identification of Nodal Agency for implementation by 3.11.2007;
- Identification of District Planning Unit by 16.11.2007;
- Preparation of State Agriculture Plan / District Agriculture Plan by 30.11.2007;
- Preparation of shelf-projects under Stream I by 30.11.2007;
- Preparation of proposals under Stream II by 30.11.2007;
- Holding of SLSC meeting during from 16.11.2007 to 31.12.2007;
- Submission of proposals for release of fund to Department of Agriculture and Cooperation 31.12.2007.

Shri Ajeya Kallam, Principal Secretary (Agriculture), Govt. of Andhra Pradesh observed that capital investment on agriculture infrastructure like irrigation, marketing, etc., which have a direct bearing on agriculture growth, should also be taken into account

to determine the eligibility of the State under RKVY. Since RKVY is mainly being implemented in a project mode, it is essential that the allocation of funds under the scheme should be indicated for five years instead on year-to-year basis. As the agricultural extension system needed adequate manpower in the State, employment of suitable personnel under RKVY may be allowed. Additional Secretary, GOI clarified that under the RKVY guidelines, hiring of manpower / Consultants is allowed within the provision for 1% of the allocation. However, creation of posts is not allowed. Regarding the requirement of additional outlay of Rs.116 crore to qualify for allocation under RKVY, the Principal Secretary (Agri) pointed out that the State Government of Andhra Pradesh had already spent around Rs.250 crore as payment to farmers towards insurance claims under the State Plan and Rs 900 crore towards interest remission under a special PM's package for the suicide-prone districts of the State. These outlays should also be taken into account for determining the eligibility and allocation of funds under RKVY in the current year. The State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) will be constituted very shortly. The DAPs for 16 districts out of 22 districts as well as SAP had been prepared and were being vetted by MANAGE. The Govt. of Andhra Pradesh had identified State Department of Agriculture as the Nodal Agency for implementation of RKVY scheme. District Planning Unit is ATMA. In order to prepare DAPs, funds @ Rs.10 lakhs per district may be released to SAMETI (State Agri-Management Extension Training Institute) which operates the accounts of District level ATMAs.

Shri S. Kosalaraman, Director (Agriculture), Government of Tamil Nadu said that the SLSC has already been constituted and the Tamil Nadu Watershed Development Agency headed by the Chief Secretary had been identified as the Nodal Agency for implementation of RKVY. The District Planning Units have been constituted with the District Panchayat President as the Chairman, and the District Collector as the Vice-Chairman. The District Agency identified to coordinate with the District Planning Unit is the 'ATMA' in the respective districts. The preparation of SAP / DAP is currently in process. The State Government is preparing projects relating to crops, strengthening of State seed farms and soil testing laboratories, marketing, extension, farm mechanization,

animal husbandry and fisheries sectors with the help of State agriculture Universities (SAUs).

Shri K Jayakumar, Agriculture Production Commissioner, Govt. of Kerala stated that the State has advanced district level planning already in place. He suggested that the evaluation of RKVY may be carried out by an independent agency for correction in implementation of the programme. Joint Secretary, GOI clarified that Ministry of Agriculture is considering appointment of a Consultant on retainership basis for this purpose. He further clarified that the State Governments can also appoint any independent agency for evaluation of implementation of RKVY scheme.

Shri A. Ramaswamy, Principal Secretary (Agriculture), Govt. of Karnataka informed that the SLSC has already been constituted in the State. State Agricultural Management Agency (SAMA) is the nodal agency for implementation of RKVY. The State has prepared 13 projects for taking up under Stream I of RKVY, which will be posed to SLSC for its consideration and approval shortly. The State has prepared a 10 year perspective SAP

Prof. R S Deshpande of ISEC, Bangalore made a presentation on the district level planning. The Zilla parishahads have approved their respective draft comprehensive DAPs and the final DAPs will be ready shortly. The detailed effort that has gone into district level planning exercise was appreciated by the participants.

The representative of Puducherry informed that the action regarding constitution of the SLSC and identification of implementing agency will be completed within this month and suitable projects under Stream I would be prepared and submitted to the SLSC for its consideration and approval shortly thereafter. The Additional Secretary, GOI advised that the process may be expedited so as to complete the exercise preferably by the end of November and not later than by the middle of December 2007.

The representative of Lakshdweep informed that there is only one district and assured to take necessary action for constituting SLSC, identification of implementing agency, and preparation of projects, at the earliest.

Dr. Keshavmurthy, Deputy Secretary, Dept. of Animal Husbandry, Dairy & Fisheries impressed upon the States to give adequate emphasis on the activities of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries for growth of the agriculture GDP. Some of the thrust areas are fodder development; upgradation of genetic make up of indigenous cattle & strengthening of semen banks; covering regions left out under IDDP (Intensive Dairy Development Scheme) as it covers only hilly and backward areas and those with less than Rs 50 lakh investment under Operation Flood; expansion of bulk milk chilling units to improve the quality and shelf life of milk produced; strengthening the livestock disease diagnostic centres / vaccine production units to address the needs created by the entry of exotic diseases and foot and mouth disease (FMD). Improved animal health will not only help growth in the sector but also facilitate export of meat / dairy items. States should also take up projects for fish products and for saving male calves to meet the needs of meat and leather industry. DAPs can draw upon the guidelines of Dairy / Poultry vending capital fund which gives 50% interest free loan for various components of dairy and poultry so that projects with 100% grant can be prepared for assistance under RKVY.

Shri Surinder Singh, Director (Agriculture), Planning Commission mentioned that as the discussions for the Annual Plan for 2007-08 in the States had already been held, the States may frame appropriate proposals under Stream-II of the RKVY for 2007-08 and forward these to the Planning Commission at the earliest. For the Annual Plan 2008-09, the proposals of the States may also reflect the RKVY proposals. The meetings of the Working Groups will be held shortly in the Planning Commission as part of the normal Annual Plan discussion with the States.

Additional Secretary, Government of India, in his concluding remarks, said that while some progress had been made in the preparations for implementation of RKVY, a lot of work had to be done for preparation of DAPs / SAP, projects under Stream-I and proposals under Stream-II. He urged that the States to hold the meetings of SLSC at the

earliest. The SLSC meetings must not be delayed till all projects are ready, but may be held to consider the projects in a staggered manner. Proposals under Stream-II may also be expedited.

Karnataka assured to hold the meeting of SLSC on 16th November, 2007 while Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu also assured to hold SLSC meetings shortly.

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RASHTRIYA KRISHI VIKAS Y OJANA (RKVY) HELD ON 7-11-2007 AT
HYDERABAD**

LIST OF OFFICERS PARTICIPATED

S/Shri/Dr.:

1. P K Basu, Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Govt. of India
2. Pankaj Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Govt. of India
3. Keshavmurthy, Dy. Secretary, Dept. of Animal Husbandry, Dairy & Fisheries, Govt. of India
4. Sunil Saran, Director, Dept. of Agriculture, Govt. of India
5. Surinder Singh, Director, Planning Commission, Govt. of India
6. Ajeya Kallam, Principal Secretary, Agriculture, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh
7. K Jayakumar, Agricultural Production Commissioner, Govt. of Kerala
8. A R Sukumar, Commissioner, Agriculture, Govt. of AP
9. S Kosalaraman, Director, Agriculture, Govt. of Tamil Nadu
10. S. Vasantha Kumar, Joint Director (Agriculture), Govt. of Puducherry
11. M Sankaran, Jt. Director (Agriculture), Govt. of Tamil Nadu
12. Rajneesh, Commissioner, Agriculture, Govt. of Karnataka
13. P Mullakoya, Director (Agriculture), Govt. of Lakshadweep
14. D. Rushendra Naidu, Additional Director, Govt. of AP
15. A Ramaswamy, Principal Secretary, Agriculture, Govt. of Karnataka
16. K Ravi Kumar, Dept. of Animal Husbandry, Dairy & Fisheries, Govt. of AP
17. S Jagadeswara Reddy, Director, Sericulture, Govt. of AP
18. R S Deshpande, Professor, ISEC, Karnataka.
19. K V Satyanarayana, Director General, MANAGE
20. M N Reddy, Director, MANAGE
21. C H Ramesh, Manager (R&D), A P (AP Dairy)
22. K R Ashok, Professor (Agro Economics), Tamil Nadu Agriculture University
23. S Rajakutty, Professor & Head (CPME), NIRD, Hyderabad
24. B K Thapliyal, Professor & Head (CAS&DM), NIRD, Hyderabad

