

## DRAFT

### **MINUTES OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON AGRICULTURE FOR KHARIF CAMPAIGN 2018**

The National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif Campaign-2018 was held on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The Conference was inaugurated by Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Radha Mohan Singh, in the august presence of Shri Parshottam Rupala & Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Ministers of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare. The Conference was attended by DG,ICAR and Senior Officers from the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries, Department of Agriculture Research & Education, Agriculture Production Commissioners and Principal Secretaries/Secretaries/Directors of Agriculture, Horticulture and Agriculture Marketing from State/UT Governments, senior scientists from ICAR and officials from concerned Ministries/Departments and other concerned Government agencies. List of participants is at **Annexure-I.**

2. Shri Jalaj Srivastava, Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DAC&FW), welcomed the participants. He briefed about the initiatives taken by the Ministry for doubling of farmer's income by 2022, which require transforming agriculture sector into a profitable enterprise. He emphasised that concerted and coordinated efforts have to be made to increase both agriculture production and productivity. These efforts would also, inter alia, manifest in creating on farm as well as non-farm employment.

3. Hon'ble AM welcomed the participants and stated that the Agriculture is the backbone of our country. The development of the Country depends on the development of agriculture and farmers and therefore it is imperative to strengthen them. Further, the Hon'ble AM stated that in the last four years, the Central Government has taken several steps to transform the agriculture sector. The Government has brought schemes which are income generation oriented in place of production oriented schemes which encompasses allied sectors also. He, further, informed the participants about the successful implementation of the scheme in the last four years especially achievements under the schemes like, Soil Health Card, Neem Coated Urea, Rashtriya Gokul Mission, Blue revolution, e-NAM, DBT, ATMA, etc. which have contributed in reducing the cost of production and thereby increasing farmer's income. He also briefed about steps taken for early release of budgetary allocation to the states with an aim to ensure timely utilisation. He urged State Governments to make all out efforts so that benefit under the schemes reaches to farmers. He desired that farmers may be encouraged to

participate in large numbers in the ongoing Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan in which Kisan Kalyan Karyashala is being organized on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2018. Hon'ble AM, also informed that deliberations and discussions are under way to provide relief to the farmers in case the market prices fall below the Minimum Support Price. He appreciated the work done by the ICAR and its extension services for disseminating knowledge from labs to land.

4. Agriculture Commissioner, DAC&FW, made a brief presentation, wherein, he gave an overview of the Rabi performance and also apprised the participants about the kharif prospects. The presentation also detailed the targets set for Kharif 2018 and the strategies to achieve them. The presentation highlighted that the IMD has predicted a normal monsoon this year which would provide favourable conditions for agricultural production. The Agriculture Commissioner informed that contingency plans have been prepared, in case there is deficient monsoon. He informed that seed situation is satisfactory except for soyabean and also informed about launching of a sub-scheme on Nutri-Cereals for boosting production of millets in the country. He also informed that Government has identified 115 aspirational districts for providing development trust and detailed action plan has been prepared in this regard.

5. Dr. Vipin Kumar, Director, National Innovation Foundation (NIF) made a presentation apprising the participants about the mandate of the NIF. He informed that NIF validates, adds value, protects and diffuses innovation to the grass root level. These innovations, inter alia, strengthen entrepreneurship culture, propels sustainable agriculture growth and amplify farmers income. The presentation also provided a snapshot of some important innovation facilitated by the NIF. He urged representatives of the States to take benefit of these innovations which are available at NIF website and NIF would be happy to guide and advise the willing state.

6. Shri. Mihir Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying & Fisheries elaborated about the schemes and initiatives taken by the Government in the livestock and dairy sector. He made a detailed presentation about the salient points of various schemes run by Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries for enhancing the income of the farmer and requested the states to take benefit of the schemes of the Department.

7. Shri Parag Gupta, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Food Processing Industries gave a presentation regarding the recently organized international food fair wherein investment to the tune of 14 billion dollar has been committed in Food Processing Industries sector, mega food parks, integrated cold chain & value chain infrastructure and infrastructure development of agro processing clusters. He also informed that Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sampada Yojana emphasises strengthening of the link among farmer-processor-markets. He further informed that emphasis is being given for schemes like

operation green, tomato-onion and potato (TOP) and price stabilization fund of Rs. 500 crore which is being utilized with a focus on post-harvest infrastructure and ensuring maximum end use of agri-produce.

8. Smt. Padampriya Balakrishnan, Deputy CEO, Ministry of Ayush informed that by 2050 herbal medicine will become 5 trillion dollar industry with a 7 % annual growth rate. India is a treasure house of knowledge and contains 7% of world's diversity. About 2500 plant species are used in the codified system of medicinal practices in India with ever increasing demand for medicinal plants. As such, conservation and cultivation become imperative. She urged the State to utilise large tracts of waste lands for brining cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants for benefit of tribal people and also intimated that drafting of a National Policy on medicinal plants is under progress.

9. The representatives of States made presentation apprising participants about, inter alia, specific innovations, best practices and suggestions/recommendations for the DAC&FW. The gist of the important innovations/ schemes where best practices were brought out and schemes which require changes, as recommended by the states during presentation are detailed at **Annexure II**.

10. NITI Aayog also made a presentation apprising the participants about how projects are conceptualised, identified and their implementation under RKVY. The presentation highlighted that the RKVY had positive impact initially and thereafter significant deviations have occurred in its approach. The presentation also threw up some important issues with reference to RKVY as under:

- Change in Priorities
- Inadequate response to identified problems
- Critical Sector such as Markets, Water, post-harvest and least attention towards them
- For both Production and Infrastructure domain: larger projects emanating from non-SAP route, Non SAP-DAP projects prevailed over SAP-DAP in allocation

The presentation also provided a host of interventions which can be deliberated and accordingly incorporated under RKVY. Some important ones are: prioritising projects with time framework, Preparation of DAIDP and SAIDP, convergences with State level bodies, sequencing of projects, etc.

11. To facilitate focused deliberations, six focused Groups were constituted with the help of the States on pre-identified topics and the recommendations made were presented on the following day by the groups. The above said groups covered and discussed following topics:

- I. Organic Farming (New Guidelines)
- II. Procurement of commodities; (PSS/MAS/PDPS/Problem solving/issues of State Governments)
- III. Agriculture Extension – Awareness Campaign for farmers and implementation of extension schemes;
- IV. MIDH – Use of specific technologies and best practices in horticulture;
- V. NRM/RFS – Micro irrigation /Agro Forestry (Bamboo)
- VI. Marketing /e-NAM & Marketing & Marketing Reforms

It was decided that the presentations made by representatives of various Ministries /Departments as well as representatives of State Governments are to be uploaded on the website of this Department i.e [www.agricoop.nic.in](http://www.agricoop.nic.in) and the same have been uploaded on the website.

12. The conference had an open house discussion, wherein, the representatives of the States deliberated and discussed various issues. The gist of the open house discussion is at **Annexure III**. In addition to the above, JS (MIDH) informed the participants there are instance where funds released under MIDH are disseminated from the state finance department to the State Horticulture Board after a gap of 7-8 months, because of which funds remains unutilised. Such delay in the disseminating of funds needs to be checked for better utilisation.

13. Secretary, DAC&FW reviewed the deliberations of the two days conference and appreciated the enthusiasm of the participants and commended them for making important recommendations and make the Conference a fruitful exercise. Further, the Secretary, DAC&FW, highlighted the following issues which require coordinated and concerted efforts by all the stakeholders:

- The recommendations made in the conference are to be followed up in the time bound manner. The recommendations to be put up on the Ministry's Website and the concerned Stakeholders should implement the recommendation with vigour zeal.
- Best Practices identified need to be replicated and scaled up such as Onion Storage by Maharashtra, FPOs in Oil production from oilseeds by Karnataka, etc. Best practices in all the sectors need to be chronicled and may be made in the form of Booklets/Publications
- All out efforts to be made to bring professionalism in the agriculture sectors. The outcomes of the schemes need to be projected and quantified by the States.
- There has been a rise in production of pulses which has led to decline in their prices. The States need to be sensitive to sustain farmers interest in Pulses production or else it may lead to problems. The States need to rise and meet extra demand, in case of import restrictions.

- The States should play a proactive role e.g. request for procurement of pulses needs to be made before harvesting and also all the modalities need to be prepared well in advance.
- Utilisation Certificates for the previous financial year be submitted in time by the States so that the funds for the current financial year can be released promptly. In addition, all Action Plans need to be issued in April itself and 1<sup>st</sup> Instalment to be released at the earliest for better utilisation of funds.

The Secretary, DACF&W, stated the underlying objective behind all the schemes/steps/programmes is to double the farmer's income, which in turn requires coordinated and concerted efforts by all the stakeholders.

14. The conference ended with vote of thanks by JS (GC) to all the participants.

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**Annexure II**

S. No.	State	Innovations/best practices schemes	Schemes which require changes/ other recommendations
1	West Bengal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Use of gunny bag in relay cropping</li><li>2. Ail (Bund) cultivation</li><li>3. Farmers Producers companies for export of fruits and vegetables</li><li>4. System of assured rice production</li><li>5. Sustainable fisheries in wetlands</li><li>6. Composite Livestock</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. More Assistance from DAC&amp;FW</li></ol>
2	Gujarat	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Remote sensing &amp; Geo spatial technology</li><li>2. Automated weather Stations (AWSs)</li><li>3. Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Survey</li><li>4. I-Khedut Portal</li></ol>	
3	Maharashtra	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Mahavedh</li><li>2. Gopinath Munde Farmers Accident Insurance Scheme</li><li>3. MIDH, RKVY, PMKSY, PMFBY, SHC</li><li>4. Unnat sheti</li><li>5. Chief Minister Agro &amp; food Processing Scheme</li><li>6. Group farming</li><li>7. Krishi Mahotsav</li></ol>	
4	Chhattisgarh	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Focus on Paddy, Oilseeds, pulses and organic farming</li><li>2. Innovations in fisheries allied activities</li><li>3. Robotics in grafting technology</li><li>4. e-Nam</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. MIDH</li><li>2. PMKSY</li><li>3. E-NAM</li></ol>
5	Orissa	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Focus on pulses and rice</li><li>2. Use of technology in seeds activity</li><li>3. Linkages in research</li><li>4. Farmers Level Initiative</li><li>5. Ease of doing Agriculture scheme</li><li>6. Millet Mission</li><li>7. PKVY</li><li>8. BGREI</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. PMFBY</li><li>2. PKVY</li><li>3. BGREI</li><li>4. Credit</li><li>5. Research Improvisation</li><li>6. Capacity Building</li><li>7. Post-Harvest Management</li><li>8. Convergence of Inter-</li></ol>

			Ministerial Schemes 9. Agricultural Markets
6	Tamil Nadu	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Innovation in Micro Irrigation, PMFBY</li> <li>2. Supply chain Management of fruits, vegetables and other perishables</li> <li>3. Collective farming</li> <li>4. Mission on sustainable dry land agriculture</li> <li>5. Uzhavan – Mobile Application</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Micro Irrigation</li> <li>2. PMFBY</li> </ol>
7	Andhra Pradesh	<p>Innovation in</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Water Management</li> <li>2. Crop Management</li> <li>3. Technology in Agriculture</li> </ol>	
8	Karnataka	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Krishi Bhagya Yojana</li> <li>2. Reviving organic farming &amp; smart grains</li> <li>3. Drip to Market Agro corridor</li> <li>4. Ranthal Project</li> <li>5. PPP-IAD</li> <li>6. PPP-IHD</li> <li>7. Restructured WBCIS</li> </ol>	
9	Uttar Pradesh	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Million Farmers Schools</li> <li>2. Agri-Junctions of UP</li> <li>3. DBT</li> <li>4. Reforms in APMC</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Soil Health Card (SHC)</li> <li>2. Farm Mechanisation-bank subsidiary</li> <li>3. PMFBY</li> <li>4. Fruits and vegetables exclusion from APMC needs to be discussed</li> <li>5. Budget allocation to be made on specific population of SC/ST</li> <li>6. Automatic Weather Station</li> </ol>
10	Jharkhand	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Single window centres</li> <li>2. Conversion of fallow land into cropped area</li> <li>3. Double Cropping rice fallow scheme</li> <li>4. BGREI</li> <li>5. PMKSY, SHC</li> <li>6. Seed Village Programme</li> <li>7. Kisan –Mela- Sah-Krishi jagriti</li> </ol>	

		<p>Abhiyaan</p> <p>8. Vegetable Processing unit</p> <p>9. Organic farming, baagwan Mitra</p> <p>10. Soil Conservation</p>	
11	Kerala	<p>1. Focus area: increasing area and productivity under paddy, coconut and vegetable</p> <p>2. Enforcement cell for pesticides</p> <p>3. Agro service centres</p> <p>4. Farm facilitation centres</p> <p>5. Pension to farmers</p> <p>6. Establishment of eco-shops, rural market</p> <p>7. ATMA Plus</p> <p>8. LEADS programmes</p> <p>9. Kerala innovation extension programmes</p>	<p>1. Seed bank</p> <p>2. Data bank of paddy</p> <p>3. Special assistance under kuttunad package</p> <p>4. Oil seed crop under NMOOP</p> <p>5. Restriction of Palm oil import</p> <p>6. Increase in MSP for paddy</p> <p>7. NFSM to all crops</p>
12	Sikkim	<p>1. Initiatives for capacity building</p> <p>2. Assistance for bio-organic compost</p>	<p>1. Support for organic pesticides, fertilizers, anti-hail net</p> <p>2. Facilitation of cold storage</p> <p>3. Inclusion of vertebrate in PMFBY</p> <p>4. Special provision in railways for famers in railways for Kisan Melas</p>



**ANNEXURE III**

S.No.	State	Issues highlighted by the State	Response of the DAC&FW
1	Madhya Pradesh	Problems faced due to making crop insurance mandatorily, written communication have been made to DAC&FW in this regard	Noted
2	Andhra Pradesh	Guidelines for aeroponics and hydroponics under MIDH	Provisions to be made under MIDH
3	Chhattisgarh	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Less Revolving funds under ATMA</li><li>2. Community radio station for every division</li><li>3. Back ended (Credit/loan) may be made optional</li><li>4. Subsidy ceiling under schemes creating problems especially for ST population</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Details to be communicated by the State w.r.t community radio and back ended provision</li><li>2. Convergence needs to be brought by the State so that funds may be utilised from other schemes in an Integrated manner for welfare of ST.</li></ol>
4	Punjab	Under MIDH funds allocated for SC is less than its population	Practices of the State of Haryana may be replicated
7	Karnataka	Reducing GST on Ripening Chamber	State to communicate request for the same to the Department
8	Tamil Nadu	Many Insurance companies declined to pay amount under PMFBY	Insurance companies instructed to pay the requisite amount
9	Orissa	Annual Action Plan and allocation under BGREI yet to be received	Annual Action Plan will be communicated in a weeks' time.
10	West Bengal	Formation period for FPOs may be extend for the prevailing 3 years	FPOs are given host of benefits for proper nurturing such as exempt from Income tax, credit guarantee, grants under NFSM.

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