Sub: Minutes of the Brain Storming Session-cum-Workshop on “Strategies for area expansion and productivity enhancement of oilseeds & oil palm and inclusion of coconut under NMOOP” held on 26th September, 2017 at ICAR-IIOR, Hyderabad.

Kindly find enclosed herewith a copy of minutes/records of discussions in the Brain Storming Session held under the Chairmanship of Agriculture Commissioner, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare on 26th September, 2017 at ICAR-IIOR, Hyderabad for information and necessary action.

Encl: As above

(Dr. Anupam Barik)
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To,

1. The Commissioner (Horticulture) / Principal Secretary (Agriculture), Government of Andhra Pradesh.
2. The Commissioner/Director (Agriculture), Government of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Karnataka, West Bengal & Tamil Nadu.
3. Chairman, Coconut Development Board, Kochi, Kerala.
4. Advisor, Trade Division, DAC&FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. The Member Secretary, CACP, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
6. Director, ICAR-IIOR, Hyderabad.
7. Director, ICAR-IISR, Indore, Madhya Pradesh.
8. Director, ICAR-DGR, Junagadh, Gujarat.
12. CMD, NAFED, Ashram Chowk, New Delhi.
13. Chairman, IOPEPC, Nariman Point, Mumbai, Maharashtra.
14. Managing Director, OPIL, Kottayam, Kerala.
15. Dr. D.M. Hegde, Former Director, ICAR-IIOR, Hyderabad.
16. Dr. S. Arulraj, Ex-Director, ICAR-IOPR, Pedavegi.
19. Director, DOD, Hyderabad

Copy for information to:

1. Sr. PPS to Secretary (AC&FW), Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. PPS to Agriculture Commissioner, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. PPS to Additional Secretary (D), Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. PPS to JS (OS), Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. Under Secretary (Policy), DAC&FW w.r.t letter no. 9-7/2016-Policy(Pt.) dated 26th July, 2017.
In pursuance to one of the recommendation of the Sub-group of NITI Ayog, a Brainstorming Session-cum-Workshop on “Strategies for Area Expansion and Productivity Enhancement of Oilseeds and Oil Palm” was organized on 26th September, 2017 by Oilseeds Division of DAC&FW in collaboration ICAR-IIOR at Hyderabad under the chairmanship of Dr. S.K. Malhotra, Agriculture Commissioner, DAC&FW. A group of about 60 participants representing the Oilseeds and Oil Palm Directorates and research institutions of ICAR, ATARI, processors, Industry, State Department of Agriculture/Horticulture and officials from CACP, Trade and oilseeds division of DAC&FW took part in the brainstorming session. Besides, two former Directors of ICAR-IIOR and ICAR-IIOPR also participated in the deliberations as guest speakers. List of participants is appended. The deliberations/observations emerged during various sessions are summarized as under:

2. Director, ICAR-IIOR welcomed the Agriculture Commissioner, DAC&FW and participants.

3. Addl. Commissioner (OS) gave a briefing about the purpose of meeting and stated that pragmatic recommendations/roadmap is the major expectation from the brainstorming for improving the production/productivity of oilseeds, area expansion under Oil Palm and wage/means for inclusion of coconut cultivation through NMOOP.

4. Agriculture Commissioner, DAC&FW in his opening remarks conveyed thanks to Director, IIOR for organizing the event and inviting all stakeholders from oilseeds and oil palm sectors. He reiterated that being a deficit sector, oilseeds and pulses are the priority area of the Government. He also shared his concern about shortfall of area coverage under oilseeds during Kharif and requested the States to make all efforts to meet the shortfall during ensuing Rabi/summer season. The efforts of the ICAR for development of large number of high yielding varieties and technologies for oilseeds and oil palm were complemented. He further mentioned that now challenge before us is to reduce the burden through enhancement of productivity of oilseeds and oil palm. The basic objective of organizing this workshop is to identify gaps,
capitalize on strength and develop the road map to address the challenges for fulfilling present and future needs. Agriculture Commissioner conducted both of the technical sessions and invited experts for presentation as per program.

5. **1st Session (Oilseeds)**

5.1 The lead presentation of the session on strategies to reduce the gap between demand and supply of vegetable oils and the roadmap for achieving self-sufficiency in oilseeds was made by Dr. D.M. Hegde, former Director, ICAR-IIOR with a focus on possibility of diversification in rice-rice and rice-wheat areas, area expansion in non-traditional areas including rice falls, inter-croppings, use of tail-end areas of canals, replacement of less remunerative crops, improved technologies for productivity enhancement, delineation of efficient zones/districts for major oilseeds crops, technology for drought proofing, balance use of edible oils and future road map.

The Chairman, Indian Oilseeds and Produce Export Promotion Council (IOPEPC) shared his views on opportunities and scope for export of oilseeds, oil and oil cakes especially export of groundnut and sesame seeds. He also shared success stories of Africa, who has become a large competitor of India in international market with high productivity and quality. He suggested that sesame varieties with bold seeded and low lignin content may be encouraged in cultivation for enhancing the export.

Assistant Director, CACP, DAC&FW informed that except Castor and Linseed all other oilseed crops are under the domain of MSP. Cost of production is an important factor but certainly not the only factor that determine MSP. Thus MSP is not a cost plus pricing exercise, as generally thought. She also shared the comparison of MSP and wholesale prices, the trend of MSP and its impact on area and production of oilseeds.

5.2 **Panel discussion**

5.2.1 Director, ICAR-IIGR, Junagarh, supplemented the idea about the scope of groundnut cultivation during Rabi / Summer in West Bengal, rice fallow in A.P., river beds / riverine area of Assam, Tamil Nadu and inter-cropping of groundnut with sugarcane in U.P. with an estimated potential area of 1.1 million ha, out of which at least 0.16 million ha could be brought under groundnut cultivation by 2020. He also favoured for creation of seed storage facilities for groundnut particularly for Eastern States like Odisha and West Bengal. The idea of age relaxation for dominant varieties on case to case basis was also supported.
5.2.2 Director, ICAR-IISR, Indore, emphasized on area expansion under soybean in non-traditional areas like Gujarat, Jharkhand, Odisha, Punjab, Telangana and Inter-cropping of soybean with other crops in traditional areas. While sharing the varietal status, he reiterated about the predominance of JS-335 despite the availability of few latest varieties.

5.2.3 Senior Scientist of ICAR-DRMR, Bharatpur informed that the institutes has produced about 1300 quintal quality seeds of Mustard for ensuing Rabi season-2017-18 and it will be sold directly to the farmers at a price of Rs. 100/kg as against a price of Rs. 500-600/kg being charged by the private companies in the name of Hybrid/HYVs. He emphasized on improvement in quality of demonstration, development of zone wise PoPs for mustard and providing support for seed-hub on oilseeds.

5.2.4 Project Coordinator (Sesame & Niger), IIOR stated that the price of sesame and niger remained above the MSP because of their export demand. He quoted examples of West Bengal and few districts of Andhra Pradesh where productivity of sesame is more than double of the National Average Yield. Therefore, he emphasized on organizing seed production of improved varieties for replacement of old varieties and use of recommended doses of fertilizers / micro-nutrients for productivity improvement of sesame and niger.

5.2.5 Project Coordinator (Linseed), Kanpur informed about the weak seed chain resulting into non-availability of quality seeds in case of linseed, despite growing demand both in national and international market. Linseed is a most suitable crop under rice fallows and also under intercropping. Decline area of in linseed could be revived with augmenting the availability of certified seeds.

5.2.6 Director, IIOR indicated scope for both area expansion and productivity improvement under sunflower, safflower and castor with use of hybrid seeds and assured procurement on remunerative prices. He also said that cheaper imported vegetable oil has been a major factor in decline of area under sunflower. Both sunflower and safflower are the most suited crop under Rabi / Summer season after harvest of paddy, potato and inter-cropping with sugarcane.

5.2.7 State Government representative of MP informed that old varieties of soybean getting more susceptible to disease / pest and new varieties are not being adopted by the farmers because of their low performance. He also informed about implementation of a new scheme, “Price Deficit Financing Scheme” launched by the state from 2017-18 for encouraging the cultivation of oilseeds, pulses and coarse cereals.
5.2.8 State government representative of Gujarat informed that groundnut is the major oilseed crop followed by castor and sesame. He suggested for allowing age relaxation in respect of prominent variety, strengthening of seed chain, revision of rate of assistance and provision for inter-cropping. Gujarat has major share in export of groundnut and sesame. Monthly meeting of exporters is organized under the Chairmanship of Pr. Secretary Agriculture to encourage the export of oilseeds.

5.2.9 State Government representative of TN shared the problems of non-availability of certified seeds, which has resulted into low SRR of 6-8%. He informed that groundnut varieties like K-6 and Dharani are most preferred by the farmers and therefore, suggested for allowing subsidy on these varieties, which have not been notified for the State.

5.2.10 State Government representative of Karnataka shared the experience of programme implementation on PPP mode by making use of provisions under local initiatives. She also informed that farmers of Karnataka still preferred to grow the age old variety TMV-2 of groundnut mainly because of its better performance under adverse condition like drought and better price in the market. Therefore, the age relaxation of TMV-2 was suggested to provide available assistance to the farmers.

6. 2nd Session (Oil palm and Coconut)

6.1 The lead presentation of the session was made by Dr. S. Arul Raj, former Director of ICAR-IIOPR on “Strategies for enhancing Oil Palm production and productivity in India”. He laid emphasis on use of mulching for moisture conservation, cultivation of leguminous crops as inter crops during gestation period for improving the soil fertility, removal of ceiling of 5 ha under drip component, incentives to the farmers for higher productivity, provisions for price stabilization funds and formation of harvester groups.

6.2 A detailed presentation was made by Deputy Director, CDB on “Current Status of Coconut and Possibility of Inclusion under NMOOP”. Based on the major constraints like lower rate of assistance for area expansion, value addition, support for mechanization and irrigation, he suggested for inclusion of coconut under NMOOP. It was noticed that total 6.06 lakh ton of coconut oil is produced and contributes about 10.49% in the total vegetable oil production in India whereas groundnut oil, palm oil, sesame oil, sunflower contributes 3.73%, 3.37%, 6.88%, 1.86% respectively. Therefore, coconut deserves to be included for promotion in NMOOP program as an oilseed crop.
6.3 Secretary Horticulture, Govt of AP highlighted the following critical issues about on oil palm:

- Declaration of oil palm may not yield any significant result in view of non availability of large public lands and hiring of land of small and marginal farmers on lease basis.
- Removal of ceiling of 5 ha for supply of drip irrigation system under oil palm.
- Removal of ceiling of 85% under supply of planting materials without change of the cost norms.
- Provision for removal of oil plantations and Inclusion of motorized chaffcutter.
- Formation of harvester groups.

6.4 A detailed presentation was made by Sh. G.S. Reddy, Advisor, Trade Division, DAC&FW on “Custom Duty Structure of Vegetable Oil & Its Implications on Edible Oil Sector”. The informed the present EXIM policy custom duty structure of vegetable oils and issue of uniform duty structure both for crude and refined oil and blending of edible oils. The duty structures has direct implications on policy space, production of oilseeds and competiveness of crushing/processing industry.

6.5 The representatives of Godrej Agrovet, Ruchi Soya, Shivsais and Oil Palm India Limited, Kerala also shared issues relating to oil palm development. The issues raised by them are summarized as under:

- The success stories of Andhra Pradesh with strong support from the State Government to the oil processors may be shared with other states for replications.
- Constitutions of Oil Palm Development Board.
- A mechanism for assured price support operation.
- Concentrate towards effective Area Coverage Approach.
- Campaign for area expansion and consumer from health point of view.
- Support for cleaning of lands before planting particularly in North Eastern states.

7. **Recommendations/suggestions**

After detailed deliberations suggestions / issues raised during the workshop, the recommendations were concluded as under:

(A) **OILSEEDS**

(i) Provision of assistance for encouraging Inter-cropping of oilseeds.
(ii) Utilization of rice-fallow areas for cultivation of oilseeds and pulses.
(iii) Scope for oilseeds in non-traditional areas of about 4-5 million ha.
(iv) Promotion of sunflower/sesame cultivation as contingent crops.
(v) Supply of micro-nutrient kits for yield improvement of oilseeds.
(vi) Creation of seed hubs with a focus on groundnut and soybean, which have larger seed rates.
(vii) Creation of custom hiring centers for encouraging mechanization in oilseeds.
(viii) In order to have realistic yield gap, yields of FLDs may be compared with district average yield by AICRP& KVKs.

(B) OILPALM

(i) Removal of ceiling of 5 ha for supply of drip irrigation system.
(ii) Removal of ceiling of 85% under supply of seedlings without change of the cost norm.
(iii) Provision for removal of oil plantations and Inclusion of motorized chaffcutter.
(iv) Formation of harvester groups.
(v) Support for cleaning of lands before plantation particularly in NE states.
(vi) Campaign for area expansion and consumer from health point of view.
(vi) Constitutions of Oil Palm Development Board.

(C) COCONUT BOARD

(i) Area expansion programme of coconut may be included under MM-II of NMOOP for extending the same rate of assistance approved for oil palm for supply of planting materials, cost of maintenance and inputs for inter-cropping during gestation period, irrigation and mechanization.
(ii) The other activities relating to development of coconut may continue under ongoing programmes of CDB.

(D) POLICY SUPPORT

(i) Possibility of uniform duty structure both on crude & refined oil and removal of blending of edible oils may be examined by the Government.
(ii) Provision for implementation of Price Deficit Financing Scheme based on the experience of MP state.

The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.
Appendix

List of the participants for Brain storming session-cum-workshop on “Strategy for area expansion and productivity enhancement of oilseeds & oil palm and inclusion of coconut under NMOOP” held on 26/09/2017 at IIOR Campus, Hyderabad.

A. Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare
   1. Dr. S.K. Malhotra, Agriculture Commissioner
   2. Sh. G.S. Reddy, Advisor (Trade)
   3. Dr. Anupam Barik, Addl. Commissioner (Oilseeds)
   4. Dr. J. P. Singh, National Consultant (Oilseeds)
   5. Sh. Ranvir Singh, Assistant Director (Oil palm)
   6. Ms. Reeta Yadav, Asst. Director (CACP)
   7. Mr. Bhavik Lukka, Economic Officer (CACP)
   8. Sh. Amar Singh, Technical Assistant (Oil Palm)
   9. Sh. B.K. Srivastava, Director Incharge, DOD, Hyderabad
  10. Shri S.S. Kagi, Assistant Director, DOD, Hyderabad

B. ICAR
   1. Dr. AVV Reddy, Director, IIOR
   2. Dr. V. Dinesh Kumar, Principal Scientist, IIOR
   3. Dr. G.D. Satish Kumar, Principal Scientist, IIOR
   4. Dr. Ranganatha, Principal Scientist, IIOR
   5. Dr. M. Sujatha, Principal Scientist, IIOR
   6. Dr. P.S. Vionala Devi, IIOR
   7. Dr. D Pati, T10, IIOR
   8. Dr. N. Murthy, Principal Scientist, IIOR
   9. Dr. S.V. Ramana Rao, IIOR
  10. Dr. R.K. Mathur, Director, IIOPR
  11. Dr. Radhakrishnan, Director, DGR
  12. Dr. A.Z. Ratnna Kumar, Principal Scientist, DGR
  13. Dr. V.S. Bhatia, Director, IISR, Indore
  14. Dr. Prasanth Sharma, Senior Scientist, IISR
  15. Dr. Y.G. Prasad, Director, ICAR-ATARI, Hyd
  16. Dr. K. Dattatri, Principal Scientist, ICAR-ATARI, Hyd.
  17. Dr. B. Malathi, Scientist, ICAR-ATARI, Hyd.
  18. Dr. P.K. Singh, PC Linseed, IIPR, Kanpur
  19. Dr. K.N. Gupta, Scientist (PP), PC Unit, Sesame and Niger, JNKVV, Jabalpur
  20. Dr. Pankaj Sharma, ICAR-DRMR
  21. Dr. S. Arulraj, Former Director, IIOPR
  22. Dr. D.M. Hegde, Former Director, IIOR

C. States
   1. Sh. Chiranjeev Chaudhary, Horticulture Commissioner, Govt. of AP
   2. Ms. G. Andel, Assistant Director (Hort.), Govt. of AP
   3. Sh. J. Mariyanna, DSHO, Dept. of Horticulture, Govt of Telangana
   4. Sh. B. Sridhar, DSHO-Suryept, Dept. of Horticulture, Govt of Telangana
5. Sh. C. Kaningston, Addl. Director (Agri), Govt of Tamil Nadu
6. Sh. B. Y. Srinivas, Director of Agriculture, Govt. of Karnataka
7. Ms. Ambika. N, Jt. Director of Agriculture, Govt. of Karnataka
8. Ms. Suyatha. M.L., DDA, Govt. of Karnataka
9. Sh. Shivanand, Assistant Director, Dept. of Horticulture, Govt. of Karnataka
10. Dr. P.M. Vaghasiya, Dir. Horti., Govt. of Gujarat
11. Sh. M.S. Prajapati, Dy. Director (Agri.), Govt. of Gujarat
12. Dr. Bipin Rathod, Dept. of Horticulture, Govt. of Gujarat
13. Sh. Anurag Mishra, SADO, Govt. of MP

D. Others
1. Sh. Sanjay Shah, Chairman, IOPEPC
2. Sh. Jnanadevan.R, Dy. Director, CDB
4. Sh. Kumaravel.S, Development Officer, CDB
5. Sh. Saradindu Das, Chief Coconut Development Officer, CDB
7. Sh. Bipin J. Prakash, Asstt. Manager, OPIL
9. Sh. Mallesham Poolla, Corporate Head, M/s Ruchi Soya Industries Ltd.
10. Sh. K.J. Prabhakarao, G.M. (Operation), M/s Ruchi Soya Industries Ltd.
11. Sh. Y.S. Ranganaikulu, CEO, M/s Shivasais Oil Palm Ltd.
12. Sh. N. Gurusamy, Branch Manager, NAFED, Hyderabad