Minutes of the video-conference held on 5th November, 2015 under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Oilseeds) to monitor the preparedness of States for Rabi/Summer – 2015-16 and additional area coverage programme

A video-Conference was held on 5th November, 2015 in room No. 8-A, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Oilseeds) to monitor the preparedness of the States for Rabi/Summer – 2015-16 and additional area coverage programme. List of participants is appended.

2. Welcoming the participating States, Joint Secretary (OS) briefed about the objective of the Conference and requested them to share prospects of oilseeds during Kharif 2015, and Rabi/Summer -2015-16, status of seed and other inputs and financial progress of NMOOP. He also apprised the States about the cluster Front Line Demonstration (CFLD) approved with an allocation of Rs. 7.96 crores to ICAR for implementation during Rabi/Summer 2015-16 through ATARI – KVKs network. The state wise highlights are given as under:

2.1 Andhra Pradesh:

Director Agriculture, Government of AP informed that area coverage under Kharif oilseeds largely under groundnut has declined from 9.30 lakh ha to 6.30 lakh ha resulting shortfall of about 0.75 lakh tonnes in production due to drought like situation prevailed in the state during Kharif season. However, situation has somewhat improved in Rabi and expected to meet shortfall about 0.20 lakh tonnes. About 2 lakhs qtls, of certified seeds of groundnut is available in the State with AP Oil Fed, Markfed and APSSC. Minikits of groundnut allocated by DAC&FW through HIL have been received, whereas, 8000 minikits of groundnut allocated through NSC will be supplied by 15th November, 2015 as confirmed by the representative of NSC. State has planned for production of 6 lakh qtl. of groundnut seeds for next Kharif season. An expenditure of Rs. 12.00 crores has already been incurred under MM-I of NMOOP including unspent balance of last year and a proposal will be submitted shortly for release of 2nd installment of funds.

2.2 Madhya Pradesh:

DDA Oilseeds, NMOOP informed that area coverage under Kharif oilseeds particularly under soybean was more than the previous year. However, heavy rains occurred in the month of August have resulted into infestation of yellow mosaic disease. More yield losses have been reported in case of JS-95-60 in comparison to JS-335. Availability of soil moisture and certified seeds of mustard varieties <15 years old are problems being faced by the State in increasing the area coverage under mustard during Rabi 2015-16. As regards, the implementation of NMOOP is concerned, it was informed that central share of Rs. 26.00 crores is available with the State including unspent balance of last year and an expenditure of Rs. 10.77 crores has been made by the State so far. Therefore, State may not require 2nd installment of funds under NMOOP. The State was asked to submit a detailed note on spread of yellow mosaic in soybean and likely losses within one week.

State was advised to approach Directorate of Rapeseed-Mustard Research, Bharatpur and GSSC, Gandhi Nagar for supply of seeds of NRCHB-101, a new variety of mustard released during 2009 and recommended for MP State.

2.3 Rajasthan:

Additional Director Agriculture, Government of Rajasthan informed that more area coverage (>21.00 lakh ha) was achieved under kharif oilseeds namely soybean, sesamum, groundnut and castor as against the last year coverage of 19.80 lakh ha in the state. However, more yield losses have been reported on account of insect/pest like semilooper in soybean. More damaged has been noticed in JS-335 in comparison to JS-95-60. Mustard is a major rabi oilseed crop in the state. There was no rain after 13th August, 2015 in the state. As against the target of 29.03 lakh ha and area of 11.80 lakh ha (40%) has been covered so far. In view of less availability of water in wells, farmers will prefer to grow low water requiring crop like mustard and some wheat area is likely to be diverted to mustard. Still the targeted area of mustard may not be covered and there may be likely shortfall of about 20% area under mustard. As against the allocation of 3.80 lakh minikits, 3.24 lakh have been supplied by NSC, KRIBHCO and NAFED which have already been distributed among the farmers. Adequate quantity of seed is available for organizing block demonstration of mustard. A proposal will be submitted shortly for release of second installment against the regular AAP of MM-I. The State was asked to submit report on infestation in soybean within one week.

2.4 West Bengal:

Additional Director Agriculture, Government of West Bengal informed that an area of 43,000 ha was covered under sesamum and groundnut during kharif and normal production is expected in kharif. Mustard in rabi and groundnut, sesamum and sunflower are grown during rabi/summer season over an area of >7.00 lakh ha. An area coverage of >8.00 lakh ha is expected under rabi/summer oilseed crops. He informed that allocated minikits of JD-6 have not been supplied by NSC to the state.

It was clarified by GM (M), NSC that due to non availability of seed, allocated seed minikits of JD-6 could not be supplied in the state, however, 195 qtls certified seed of JD-6, available in the state with the regional office of NSC has been sold in the state during current rabi season.

2.5 Haryana:

Additional Cane Commissioner, Government of Haryana informed that Kharif oilseeds namely groundnut, sesamum and castor are grown over a small area of <10,000 ha and mustard is a major oilseed crop in the state. As against the coverage of about 5 lakh ha during rabi-2014-15, state has targeted an area of 6.00 lakh ha with a productivity of 1850 kg/ha. Enhanced area targets of 0.15 lakh ha has been decided for sunflower for Summer - 2015-16 as against the last year coverage of 0.09 lakh ha. More than 22,000 qtls certified seed of mustard is available. Hybrid seed of sunflower is largely supplied through private seed companies. About 70% sowing of mustard has been completed.

State was advised to submit regular Weekly Weather Watch (WWW) report to CDDs, who in-turn submit their report to DAC&FW.

2.6 Karnataka:

Director Agriculture, Government of Karnataka informed that out of 175 talukas drought like situation prevailed in 136 talukas and resulted shortfall both under area coverage and production of oilseeds particularly under groundnut during Kharif - 2015. As against the target of 11.35 lakh ha an area of 8.46 lakh ha was covered under Kharif oilseeds with an estimated production of 4.70 lakh ha against the target of 9.64 lakh qtls. Moisture stress is prevailing in 10 districts, as there is no rain since last 03 weeks. As against the target of 4.90 lakh ha only area coverage of 2.39 lakh ha is expected under rabi oilseeds and 1.50 lakh ha is expected under summer groundnut. State has received 2500 minikits of groundnut through HIL so far. It was informed by NSC that remaining 2500 minikits will be supplied by 15th November, 2015.

2.7 Assam

Dy. Director Agriculture, Assam informed that R&M is a major oilseed crop grown over an area of >2.50 lakh ha in the State. Sowings are under progress. He requested for transport of seed minikits of R&M below district level. It was clarified that the support available under MME of MM-I could be utilized for the purpose. He also requested for age relaxation of varieties of R&M and linseed. It was informed that the proposal of the State is being examined and decision will be intimated shortly.

2.8 Bihar

Dy. Director Agriculture Bihar informed that all inputs including seed minikits have been pre-positioned at field level and will be distributed to the farmers once election process is completed in the State. Normal area coverage under mustard, linseed and sunflower is expected in the State during Rabi/Summer 2015-16.

It was observed by Joint Secretary (OS) that States should motivate the farmers for growing mustard in view of the attractive price of Rs. >5000/qtl. prevailing in the markets. Particularly, Eastern States may encourage the farmer to make use of rice fallows for cultivation of mustard and linseed.

2.9 Uttar Pradesh

Joint Director Agriculture, shared about an initiative taken by the State Government for encouraging sesame cultivation in Bundelkhand region. Top-up subsidy of Rs. 88/- per kg provided by the State Government over and above the subsidy of NMOOP @Rs. 12/- kg has resulted into an additional area coverage of 1 lakh ha in Bundelkhand region under sesame. As against the target of 3.22 lakh ha, total area of 4.85 lakh ha has been achieved under sesame in the State during Kharif – 2015. However, heavy rains during September, 2015 have adversely affected the productivity of sesame at grain filling stage. Seed minikits of mustard have been received and distributed among the farmers. However, seed minikits of linseed have not been supplied by NSC. Sufficient quantity of certified seed and other inputs have been positioned at field level. Seed of mustard also include supply of hybrid PAC-432. Sowings of mustard with pre-sowing irrigation is under progress.

2.10 Maharashtra

Joint Director Agriculture informed that an area coverage of 40 lakh ha , which is at par with last year Kharif coverage, was achieved under Kharif oilseeds. However, adverse weather situation prevailed in the State has resulted into heavy yield losses. No incidents of yellow mosaic were noticed, but damage by castor semi-looper was observed. Allocated seed minikits of 10715 of mustard (10000) and safflower (715) have been received. Problem of non-supply of breeder seeds of JS-95-60 was reported. An area of 4 lakh ha is targeted for Rabi oilseeds, which includes 1 lakh ha of groundnut. About 30% sowings of Rabi oilseeds are completed.

As regards the supply of breeder seed is concerned, it was suggested by JS (OS) that a formal letter may be sent to ADG (Seeds) with a copy to JS (Seeds).

3. At the end of the Conference, all the participating States were requested by the Joint Secretary (OS) to take necessary follow up action on the following:

3.1 Proposal for release of second instalment of NMOOP along with the utilization certificates of fund released during 2014-15, utilization of atleast 60% of amount (Central Share) released during current year and the amount of State share released by State Government.

3.2 The officers of the concerned States, wherein, cluster FLDs are being organized by KVKs, may be advised by the State Governments to visit the demonstration plots regularly and share their feedback with the farmers for replications of new technologies/ varieties and provide feedback to State Headquarter and DAC&FW.

3.3 States of MP, Maharashtra and Rajasthan were advised to undertake an analysis of the factors including infestation of disease/pest contributing to yield losses in soybean during Kharif – 2015 and submit a brief note to DAC&FW within a week.

3.4 The States may make use of favorable price situation of mustard, which is ruling at Rs. >5000 / qtl. for encouraging mustard cultivation. Particularly Eastern States may also make efforts for use of rice fallows for cultivation of mustard and linseed.

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Appendix

List of Officers of DAC&FW and State Governments participating in the Video Conference held on 5th November, 2015

A. DAC&FW

1. Sh. Sanjay Lohiya, Joint Secretry (OS), DAC&FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Dr. Anupam Barik, ADC(OS), DAC&FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. Sh. M.N. Sukumaran, Director (OS), DAC&FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. Dr. J.P. Singh, Consultant (OS), DAC&FW, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. Dr. M. Dutta, Consultant (OS), DAC&FW, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
6. Sh. Karanjit Singh Ngangbam, DD(OS) DAC&FW, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
7. Sh. Mahesh Chander Kumar, Programmer (OS, DAC&FW, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
8. Sh. Jitender Kumar, ADC(OS), DAC&FW, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.

B. States

1. Sh. Dhananjay Reddy, Director Agriculture, Commissionorate of Agriculture, Opposite to L.B. Stadium, Bashir Bagh, Hyderabad.

2. Sh. M. L. Salodiya, Addl. Director Agriculture, Directorate of Agriculture, Pant Krishi Bhawan, Jaipur.

3. Sh. B.K. Das, Addl. Director Agriculture, Directorate of Agriculture, Nabanno, Howra, West Bengal.

4. Sh. Jagdish Brar, Addl. Cane Commissioner, Krishi Bhawan, Sector -21, Panchkula, Chandigarh.

5. Sh. K.C. Das, Dy. Director Agriculture and In-charge JDA, Oilseeds and Pulses, Directorate of Agriculture, Khanapara, Guwahati.

6. Sh. Anil Dixit, Joint Director Agriculture , Directorate of Agriculture , Krishi Bhawan, Lucknow, UP .

7. Sh. P.K. Makhija, Dy. Director Agriculture, Directorate of Agriculture, Vindhyachal Bhawan, Bhopal.

8. Sh. Vijay Kolekar, Joint Director, Incharge, Directorate of Agriculture Sakar sankul, Shivaji Nagar, Pune.

9. Sh. Rakesh Kumar, DDA, Directorate of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan, Patna.

10. Director Agriculture, Directorate of Agriculture, Shesadri Road, Bengaluru.