

**TOUR REPORT OF SHRI S.K.DALAL, NATIONAL CONSULTANT (OILSEEDS)  
FOR VISIT TO HIMACHAL PRADESH  
(13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2017)**

The visit was undertaken from 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 to review the implementation status of National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Seed Village programmes and settlement of accounts for release of funds under NFSM. The field visit covered two districts namely, Shimla and Una. In both the districts, interaction was held with middle level field functionaries, beneficiaries, group of farmers & field staff working at various levels to know the field problems / issues affecting the production & productivity. The discussions included flow of funds, implementation mechanism of the programmes and efforts made to enhance area coverage under various crops particularly pulses. The discussions were also held with the Director of Agriculture, HP about fund flow mechanism for effective implementation of the programmes.

The financial issues related to fund utilization including unspent balance of last year and release of 2<sup>nd</sup> installment under NFSM was discussed with the concerned nodal officer of the State. The status of utilization of funds during 2017-18 is summarized as under:

- During current financial year (2017-18), an Annual Action Plan of Rs. 1467.23 lakh has been approved with central share of Rs. 1320.51 lakh out of which 1<sup>st</sup> installment of Rs. 660.00 lakh was released during June, 2017.
- There was an unspent balance of Rs. 98.00 lakh from the last year and including 1<sup>st</sup> installment, an amount of Rs. 758.00 lakh is available with the State under NFSM.
- The State has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 622.449 lakh so far and has an unspent balance of Rs. 135.291 lakh, which is 82.1% fund utilization.
- The State is now eligible for release of 2<sup>nd</sup> installment for which a demand letter, physical & financial progress report and provisional UC. The summary of the financial status is summarized below:

(Rs. in lakh)

Financial Year (F.Y.)	Approved allocation			Availability of funds			Expenditure		
	Central Share (CS)	State Share (SS)	Total (CS + SS)	U.B. as on 1 <sup>st</sup> April (CS)	Release of CS	Total CS	CS	SS	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)

<b>NFSM- Pulses</b>									
2015-16	46.17	46.17	92.34		46.17	46.17	46.16	46.16	92.32
2016-17	389.695	43.30	432.99 5		389.18	389.18	293.904	32.656	326.56
2017-18				95.79	155.84	251.63	77.26	8.56	85.84
<b>NFSM- Rice</b>									
2015-16	82.50	82.50	165.00		82.50	82.50	82.50	82.50	165.00
2016-17	122.40	13.60	136.00		122.40	122.40	122.40	13.60	136.00
2017-18					48.96	48.86	77.57	8.62	86.19
<b>NFSM- Wheat</b>									
2015-16	534.455	534.50	1068.91		478.02	478.02	462.14	478.24	940.38
2016-17	800.883	88.99	889.87	16.39	799.073	799.073	799.073	88.787	887.86
2017-18				1.86	276.04	277.90	141.25	15.69	156.94
<b>NFSM- Coarse cereals</b>									
2015-16	198.50	198.50	397.00		198.50	198.50	198.50	198.50	397.00
2016-17	287.10	31.90	319.00		287.10	287.10	287.100	31.90	279.18
2017-18					179.41	179.41	326.38	36.26	362.64
<b>NFSM- Total</b>									
2015-16	50-50	911.42	911.42	1822.83	854.98	854.98	838.59	854.69	1693.28
2016-17	90-10	1600.08	177.79	1777.865	1597.75	1597.75	1502.477	166.943	1629.60
2017-18				97.59	660.15	757.74	622.45	69.16	691.61

## 1. Crop coverage

1.1 There is a continuous dry spell in the State due to which the crop sowing for rabi 2017-18 season has been delayed. There is a deficit in area coverage of all crops during rabi 2017-18. Out of a total deficit of 11,000 ha area coverage, 9000 ha deficit is only in case of total cereal crops particularly in barley. The crop-wise area sown so far during rabi 2017-18 and deviation from last rabi season's achievement is given below:

### Area sown during Rabi 2017-18 (till 13.11.2017)

(Area in lakh' ha)

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Target for Rabi 2016-17</b>	<b>Area sown (as on date) 2017-18</b>	<b>Rabi 2016-17 Area</b>	<b>Absolute change over last year</b>
<b>Cereal:</b>				
Wheat	3.6	1.45	1.436	0.01
Barley	0.195	0.03	0.138	-0.11

Total	3.797	1.48	1.574	-0.09
<b>Pulses:</b>				
Gram	0.0043	0.001	0.012	-0.01
Rabi pulses	0.125	0.038	0.032	0.01
Total	0.1293	0.04	0.044	-0.01
<b>Oilseeds:</b>	0.0948	0.032	0.042	-0.01
<b>State Total</b>	<b>3.9243</b>	<b>1.55</b>	<b>1.66</b>	<b>-0.11</b>

### Crop Condition

1.2 The overall crop condition is good and there is no incidence of insect / pest. The sowing of wheat crop has started and for sowing in rainfed areas, the farmers are waiting for showers. In the State, the supply of inputs like seed, fertilizer, pesticide / insecticide is normal. However, due to continue dry spell, sowing of rabi crops has been delayed particularly in rainfed areas and sowing in irrigated areas is in progress.

## **2. Requirement and Availability of Seeds**

2.1 Although, the State does not have own seed producing agency, however there is a State Seed Certification Agency. The department of agriculture is producing own certified seed either at government seed farms or through contact farmers and the remaining demand is supplemented through other national seed agencies. The seed production of kharif crops like rice, blackgram and maize is mainly taken care by the department. However, the seed production for rabi crops is supplemented through by other seed agencies like NSC, HIL, IFFCO, KRIBHCO, NCCF.

## **3. Requirement and Availability of Fertilizers**

3.1 The State does not have any deficit with respect to availability of fertilizers during rabi 2017-18. As against a total requirement of 22400 MT, the total availability was 25953 MT, and the major suppliers are NFL/IFFCO/RCF for urea, GSFC for AS, Shriram for CAN and RCF/IFFCO for NPK grade fertilizers. The remaining stock of 41800MT fertilizer is available for supply for rabi crops.

## **4. Progress of NFSM programme**

### Financial Progress:

4.1 During the year 2017-18, an amount of Rs.6.60 crore was released as 1<sup>st</sup> installment and considering previous unspent balance, an amount of Rs. 7.58 crore was available. Out of this, an expenditure of Rs. 6.22 crore (82%) has been incurred. The Utilization Certificate (UC) and physical and financial report has been

obtained from the State along with documentary proof for release of state share. These documents have been sent to the concerned NFSM Unit for processing of the release of 2<sup>nd</sup> installment to the state.

#### Physical progress:

4.2 Under NFSM – rice, the physical progress is good except that no achievement has been made so far under local initiatives where RCC tanks of various capacities are to be constructed. The physical progress under NFSM-rice is slow particularly in case of seed distribution, plant protection chemicals & bio-agents, power sprayer and water carrying pipes. However, the progress was satisfactory under NFSM-pulses, except in manual & power sprayers, power weeder, rotavator, water carrying pipes, power sets and PMT.

### **5. Progress of Seed Division Programmes**

#### Seed Village:

5.1 The State has been allotted a target of 2966 seed villages, which includes additional number of 2006 seed villages during 2017-18. The state has allocated district-wise targets covering total area of 26800 ha and an amount of Rs. 429.00 lakh has been released. Under this programme, 26800 qtls of foundation / certified wheat seed will be distributed and 180, training camps for the farmers would be organized during current year.

5.2 One site in Rainsari village of Una block was visited where the farmer Sh. Vinish Kumar was performing sowing operation. A discussion was also held with a group of farmers, who had taken up seed village programme to produce their own seed. It was informed by the field staff of the department that the 1<sup>st</sup> training on sowing operations could not be conducted due to code of conduct in the state because of assembly election. The farmers seemed very much keen to take up production of their own seed to reduce the cost of cultivation and also for better production.

#### Seed Processing Unit:

5.3 The state has been allotted to establish 5 seed processing-cum-seed storage godown at village panchayat level during current financial year. The discussions were held with the Director Agriculture, Himachal Pradesh and Nodal Officer looking after these programmes, who were briefed about the establishment of these processing units. The Department has assured to submit the proposal for these units shortly and informed that since the state has hilly and undulated terrain, the capacity of the unit may vary.

## **6. Activities undertaken by KVKs under NFSM programme**

### **6.1 Front Line Demonstration (FLDs) of Pulses**

6.1.1 During Kharif-2017, the KVK, Una has planned 96 FLDs on blackgram (variety: Him Mash-I) to be conducted on an area of 20 ha. However, an area of 15.36 ha was covered during the season. During Rabi 2017-18 the KVK, Una has planned 76 FLDs on chick pea (variety: HC-5) to be conducted on an area of 10 ha, which was achieved. The crops could not be seen as the kharif crops had been harvested and rabi crops were to be sown for which the farmers are waiting for winter rains.

### **6.2 Seed Hub**

#### Seed production:

6.2.1 During Kharif-2017, a target of 150 qtl seed of blackgram (variety: Him Mash-I) was to be produced. However, only an area of 8.0 ha was sown and yield of 50 qtl is expected to be produced, which is about one third of the target. Similarly, during rabi 2017-18 a production target of 400 qtl of chick pea (variety: Aman-515) seed has been fixed against which only 1 ha area has been sown and about 9 qtl seed is expected, which is also very low achievement.

#### Infrastructure development:

6.2.2 ATARI, Zone-I, Ludhiana has released an amount of Rs. 55 lakh on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 to State Agriculture University (SAU), Palampur for establishment of seed processing unit and seed storage godown. Against this amount the Programme Coordinator, KVK, Una has released an amount of Rs.15.00 lakh to Asstt. Registrar, SAU, Palampur for installation of seed processor and Rs. 30.00 lakh to Estate Officer, SAU, Palampur for construction of seed processing plant-cum-seed-storage godown. This amount has been released on 27.04.2017 against which no progress has been achieved so far.

## **7. Cluster Demonstrations by SDA**

7.2 The field of Sh. Sanjeev Sharma was visited in Sunehra village of Una block where a cluster demonstration on wheat under NFSM has been organized. In this area a cluster of 30 ha covering 74 farmers have been taken up where wheat variety HD-3086 has been taken up under demonstration. Since, the sowing was done on 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2017, the germination has started which had a good stand.

7.3 In the same village another demonstration on gram was seen which has been sown in lines and the germination is good. The farmer has taken up this crop for the

first time and was initially hesitant to take up the demonstration which may not provide enough yields and wanted crop insurance cover for risk. Now the farmer is happy with food crop germination.

7.4 In village Sunehra, discussions were held with a group of farmers, who were reporting about incidence of yellow rust in wheat crops. The field staff from the department informed that HD-3086 variety is resistant to yellow rust and has performed well and better results have been reported. The panchayat pradhan informed that there was no shortage of inputs during last season and the farmers are waiting for winter showers in rainfed areas for sowing of wheat crop.

7.5 In the visit to Jhalera village of Una block, the agriculture machinery provided to Sh. Kishan Chand was seen who had purchased ripper-cum-binder. A rotavator was provided to Sh. Manohar Lal under NFSM programme during 2014-15. Both the farmers were happy with the performance of these machines, which is time saving and they can also earn by working other farmers.

## **8. Field visit in Shimla district**

8.1 In Rampur district, 2 cluster demonstration on Mash and 8 cluster demonstration on pea were organized and Rs. 7500/- were spent on various inputs as per cafeteria under NFSM pulses. The farmer Smt. Misha of Gasoh village in Rampur block of Shimla district had cluster demonstration undertaken NFSM Pulses on Mash organized during kharif-2017. She informed that the variety KV-59 performed well and yielded one qtl per bigha which is a very good yield. The farmer performed seed treatment before sowing and sowing was done in end of July, 2017, which was harvested in end of October. As informed by the farmers and by the field staff, under cluster demonstrations of mash, 20 kg treated seed for Rs.1600/-, micro-nutrients / bio- fertilizers for Rs.500/-, PP chemicals for Rs.750/-, Rs. 415/- for weedicides, Rs.2185/- for need based farm tools were supplied to the beneficiaries. In addition, field days were also organized to popularize the technology to other farmers.

8.2 The other farmers in the village informed that the subsidy patterns under different schemes are different which should be made at par. Similarly, under schemes of horticulture department of the state plant protection insecticides are provided at a lower cost as compared to the department of agriculture. The inputs are supplied well in advance before the sowing time.

8.3 A demonstration under NFSM-Pulses on field pea crop was visited in Mashoba where the farmers informed that they are purchasing the seed from the private seed dealers which is very costly and costs around Rs. 250-300 per kg as compared to the seed supply by the Department. However, it is true that the yield potential of the seed supplied by private seed dealers is much higher than the Department of Agriculture. Under cluster demonstration on field pea 100 kg seeds

per demonstration was supplied covering a cost of Rs. 4300/-, and PP chemicals / weedicides for an amount of Rs.1000/- was supplied. Farm small tools were supplied with a cost of Rs.1400/- depending upon the requirement of the farmers.

## **9. Field visit in Una District**

9.1 The district has a geographical area of 15.5 lakh ha. This district is in foothills of Shivaliks and majority of the portion has plain areas. The summer are very hot and average rainfall in 1250mm per year, however about 80% of area is rainfed and has erratic rainfall. The cropping intensity is 195%, which has potential to go up to 240-250%. The main crops are wheat (45.8%) and maize (42.9%) of the total cropped area.

9.2 The position of availability and supply of certified seeds in the district is comfortable during rabi 2017-18 and the gap in supply of seeds is fulfilled by NSC, NAFED and KRIBHCO for wheat crop. The seed supply for gram, toria, oats and peas is also adequate as per requirement. Similarly, the supply of PP chemicals and fertilizers are also adequate as per requirement for rabi 2017-18.

9.3 During Kharif-2017, under NFSM-pulses, 10 ha area was covered under cluster demonstration and the farmers were supplied seed, micro-nutrients and insecticides. The expected yield from these demonstration is about 8.50 qtl per ha. Similarly, under coarse cereals (maize-sole crop) the demonstrations were laid on an area of 560 ha and about 32.50 qtl per ha yield is expected. During rabi 2017-18, under chickpea demonstration an area of 14 ha has been covered under NFSM-pulses and a area of 360 ha has been taken up under cluster demonstration of wheat crop under NFSM-wheat.

9.4 Under NFSM – pulses seed distribution component, no achievement has been made so far except demonstration on Mash and maize – gram cropping system based demonstration. Similarly, the integrated nutrient management has not been taken up upto September, 2017, except 50 ha have been covered under PP chemicals / bi-agent. Out of a target of distribution of 10 pump sets, 08 pump sets have been distributed. The cropping system based two trainings have been organized till September, 2017.

## **10. Actionable Points**

Based on observations of the field visit, the following actionable points have emerged:

- i. The State has made an expenditure of Rs. 622.45 lakh (82%) out of available balance of Rs. 758.00 lakh under NFSM during 2017-18, which is a good achievement. The Utilization Certificate for the year 2017-18, physical &

financial progress report and proof for release of state share has been obtained from the State Department of Agriculture and submitted to CA-V section of Crops Division for processing the release of 2<sup>nd</sup> installment.

(Action: CA-V, NFSM)

- ii. In both the districts Shimla and Una, majority of the farmers prefer the seeds of pea crop supplied by private seed companies rather than the seeds sold by the Department of Agriculture. The details of their seed varieties sold by different names are not known, which needs to be looked into by the Department of Agriculture in light of Seed Act.  
(Action: SDA)
- iii. In Una district, broadcasting method of sowing in case of wheat crop is being adopted by most of the farmers instead of line sowing. This may hamper weed control, intercultural operations and yield. The State may demonstrate and promote line sowing method for improving productivity.  
(Action: SDA)
- iv. Under NFSM- Pulses, field pea is included as a designated crop, however, most of the seed being used by the department and farmers are of vegetable type. Hence, the same may not contribute towards increased pulse production.  
(Action: SDA)
- v. Under NFSM- Pulses, Technical Support Group (TSG) at state / district level to monitor the programme at both the levels has been included, but all positions are lying vacant and no expenditure has been incurred so far.  
(Action: SDA)
- vi. The State has started initiating action with respect to entries in DBT portal. In Una district, the concerned staff was oriented about the method of making entries on website portal of NFSM. The same should be followed at State level also.  
(Action: SDA)
- vii. The State has been allotted a target of 2966 seed villages, which includes additional 2006 seed village. The state has allocated district wise targets covering a total area of 26800 ha and an amount of Rs. 429.00 lakh has been release to districts. Under this programme 26800 qtls of foundation / certified wheat seed has been distributed and 180 camps for imparting training to the farmers would be organized, which is a good start.  
(Action: SDA)
- viii. The State has been allotted to establish 5 seed processing-cum-seed storage godown at village panchayat level during current financial year about which the Director of Agriculture has assured to submit the proposal shortly and informed

that since the state has hilly and undulated terrain, the capacity of the unit may vary.

(Action: SDA)

- ix The progress of infrastructure development for processing and storage godown is unsatisfactory. Although, KVK Una has released Rs. 15 lakh for seed processing unit and Rs. 30 lakh for construction work of seed processing plant-cum-seeds store to the university on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2017, the work has not started yet.

(Action: SAU)

- x As against a target of producing 150 qtl seed of blackgram (variety: Him Mash) during kharif 2017, KVK Una is expecting only 50 qtl seed production, which is only 33% achievement. Similarly, during rabi 2017-18 as against a production target of 400 qtl of chick pea (variety: Aman-515), only 1-ha area has been sown from which about 9 qtl seed is expected to be produced. This reflects poor performance of the seed hub, which needs attention of the SAU.

(Action: SAU)