

File No. 3-3/2015-OP (SB)
Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture & Co-operation

Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 13th May, 2015

Sub: Minutes of the meeting held on 08th May, 2015 to discuss the issue of cultivation of oil palm in islands off the East Coast under Sagarmala Project-reg.

Please find enclosed herewith a copy of the minutes of the meeting held on 08th May, 2015 at Room No. 138 in Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Sh. Sanjay Lohiya, Joint Secretary (Oilseeds), Department of Agriculture & Co-operation for information and necessary follow up action in the matter.

Encl: As above


(M.N. Sukumaran)
Director (Oilseeds)

Distribution:

- (i) The Principal Secretary (Horti./Agri.), Government of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.
- (ii) The Commissioner / Director of Horticulture / Agriculture, Government of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Odisha and West Bengal.
- (iii) Director, Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research (IIOPR), Pedavegi, Andhra Pradesh.
- (iv) Director, Central Plantation Crops Research Institute (CPCRI), Kudlu, P.O. Kasaragod, Kerala-671124.
- (v) Sh. A. K. Saran, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Shipping, Transport Bhawan, Parliament Street, New Delhi.

Copy to:

- (i) PPS to Secretary (A& C), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
- (ii) PPS to Agriculture Commissioner (A& C), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
- (iii) PPS to Joint Secretary (Oilseeds), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.

Minutes of the meeting on cultivation of Oil Palm in Islands off the East-Coast under Sagarmala Project held on 8th May, 2015

To discuss the issue of cultivation of oil palm in islands off the east coast under Sagarmala Project, a meeting was held on 8th May, 2015 in the Committee Room No. 138, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (OS). The list of participants is *appended*. The observations emerged during the deliberations are summarized as under:

Welcoming the participants, Joint Secretary (OS) gave a brief background of the Sagarmala Project for exploring the possibilities for oil palm cultivation in islands off the east coast. He said that Ministry of Shipping has been requested for providing details of islands. He suggested that while exploring the possibilities for oil palm cultivation in islands, the issues relating to administrative authority/jurisdiction and classification of land whether it is forest or revenue land may also be examined by the states. He also emphasized on examining economic viability of oil palm plantation spread over a large number of islands. He also requested states to give information in the proforma already circulated.

2. Principal Secretary (Agriculture), Government of Odisha informed about existence of 29 islands on east coast of Odisha. However, he said that he is not sure about the ownership of the lands. He further stated that these are small deltas/sedimentations. These are sandy and fertile lands, which are used for cultivation of various crops by the inhabitants. Total area of these islands of Odisha Coast may be about 2500-2600 ha. Cyclone is a regular feature in east coast, which has resulted in uprooting of oil palm plantation along coast line taken up by the State in Kendrapada district. The State has, therefore, shifted oil palm plantation in the interior areas. He has also requested that details of islands may be provided to them for an actual assessment of area available in various islands located on the east coast of Odisha.

3. The representative from Government of Andhra Pradesh informed that the oil palm plantation has already been taken up by the State in the coastal areas of East-Godavari, Vishakhapatnam and Krishna Districts. An oil palm processing unit has **been established in Krishna District by M/s Ruchi Soya Industries Ltd.** Sugarcane and Banana crops grown in the coastal areas are more remunerative and farmers are not coming forward for diversion of their lands for oil palm plantation. The expected area in islands may not be >4000 ha. However, actual assessments will be made by the State on receipt of details of islands.

4. Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Shipping said that list of islands will be obtained from MHA and made available to DAC. He emphasized that all efforts may be made to explore the possibilities of oil palm cultivation in the islands of the eastern coast.

5. Director, IOPR, Pedavegi informed that the cost of cultivation of oil palm will be comparatively higher in islands and the plantation will also be subjected to cyclones, which result in uprooting of the plants. Director, CPCRI, Kasaragod also shared similar information and added that the effect of cyclone is always more in sandy soils.

6. Concluding the deliberations, it was decided that the Ministry of Shipping will provide State wise details of islands to DAC by 15th May, 2015 and the concerned States and institutions will submit information in the proforma and comments on the availability of lands, their ownership and economic viability of oil palm cultivation within 30th May, 2015. Further action in the matter will be taken on receipt of information in the proforma.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.

List of the participants in meeting held on 08th May, 2015 in room no. 138 under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Oilseeds) to discuss the issue of cultivation of oil palm in islands off East Coast under Sagarmala Project.

A. Department of Agriculture & Co-operation

1. Dr. Anupam Barik, Additional Commissioner (Oilseeds).
2. Sh. M.N. Sukumaran, Director (Oilseeds).
3. Dr. J.P. Singh, Consultant (Oilseeds).
4. Sh. Ranvir Singh, Assistant Director (Oil Palm).
5. Sh. A.K. Nag, Assistant (Oil Palm).
6. Sh. Amar Singh, Technical Assistant (Oil Palm).

B. Ministry of Shipping

1. Sh. A.K. Saran, Deputy Secretary.

C. Government of Andhra Pradesh

1. Dr. G. Andal, Assistant Director (Horticulture)

D. Government of Odisha

1. Dr. Rajesh Verma, Principal Secretary, (Agriculture)

E. Indian Institute of Oil Palm Research (IIOPR) and ICAR

1. Dr. B.B. Singh, ADG (Oilseeds).
2. Dr. Chowdappa. P, Director, CPCRI, Kasaragod.
3. Dr. P Kalidas, Director (Acting), IIOPR, Pedavegi
4. Dr. Manish Das, Principal Scientist (Horticulture), ICAR.

F. M/s. Mckinsey & Company

1. Sh. K. Vaideesh.