**ANNEXURE – I**

**CRITICAL ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE DIVISION HEADS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS’ WELFARE**

**Theme 1, Agriculture Policy and Reforms for Higher and Sustained Farmers’ Income**

1.1

**Horticulture**

1. Non availability of consumer preferred and processable varieties of horticulture crops due to weak IPR regime
2. Initial cost constraints in adoption of improved technologies – protected cultivation etc.

**Marketing**

1. Incentivising women to take up agricultural and marketing activities such as cleaning, sorting etc.
2. Making assaying labs fully operational under e-NAM for inter-mandi and inter-State trading.
3. Integrating transport logistics, dispute settle mechanism under e-NAM.
4. Rural Periodical Markets or Gramin Haats may be developed as collection/aggregation points. Warehouses/cold storages with prescribed infrastructure and services may be declared as market yards under the State APMC Act.
5. A national policy on FPOs needs to be developed.
6. Integration of farmers with agro industry through contract farming would provide the farmers with market and price security with enhanced production and productivity.

**Crops**

1. India’s average yields across the crop and livestock sectors are low as compared to global averages. Intervention strategy for bridging the yield gaps needed.
2. Creation of Oilseed Development Fund (ODF): Imposing 0.5% cess on import of Palm Oil (crude & refined) and creation of (ODF) can be used for MSP & MIS operation for oilseeds & FFBs along with need based programmes.
3. Minimum Support Price (MSP) & Market Interventions:The NAFED has been designated as a Central Agency for procurements. Price Support Scheme (PSS) of government. The procurement of various crops with exception of wheat & paddy is minimal. Alternate ways needed for strengthening procurement of crops for which MSPs are notified and of the perishables, for which no MSP is notified.
4. Mass awareness campaign on vegetable oil consumption:As per nutritional requirement 12-13 kg per annum per capita is sufficient while India is consuming more than 19.00 kg per annum per capita. The excess consumption can be trapped by educating the consumers through electronic print media, mobile apps, wide publicity/advertisement and nutritional camps.
5. Simultaneously enhancing the output of oilseeds to achieve self-sufficiency of vegetable oil domestically.

**Rice**

1. Promotion of bio-fortified varieties of rice for nutritional security.
2. Promotion of system of Rice Intensification (SRI) technique.
3. Promotion of HYVs of basmati rice.

**Wheat**

1. Promotion of Zero-tillage to reduce cost of cultivation/timely sowing especially in low lying areas.
2. Adoption of moisture conservation methods (Raised bed Furrow, BBF).

**1.2**

**Horticulture**

* + - * 1. Availability of good quality certified seed and planting material
        2. Old and senile orchards – adding area but productivity is low

**Seeds**

1. No quality standard for breeder seeds.
2. Non production of indented varieties breeder seeds as well as high cost of breeder seed.
3. Non development and availability of location specific abiotic tolerant crop varieties from National Agricultural Research System.
4. No responsibility of seed certification agency in case of seed failure.
5. Ineffective implementation of seed legislation.
6. The varieties developed by Public Sector charging royalty is affecting the seed production and making it available to farmers at reasonable price.
7. Public sector seed agencies not producing hybrid seeds of jowar, bajra, maize, cotton, rice, sunflower, castor and vegetables.
8. Non production of papaya and berseem seeds in the country.
9. Lack of seed infrastructure facilities (seed processing and storage) across the country.
10. Non encouragement of farmers producers organization in seed production and supply chain.
11. Non availability credit based financial facilities for seed infrastructure on par with world bank and IMF etc.
12. Registration with NSC as a seed importer is a hindrance to import of best planting materials available in the world.

**Fertiliser Control Order (FCO )**

1. Regulation for growth related products / sea weeds etc. that have become abundant in the market
2. Simplification of testing protocols of fertilizers/ process for new fertilizers registration under FCO
3. Can we do away with mixtures and adopt Customised fertilizers
4. Can we relax regulations of FCO in favour of label based fertilizers?

**1.3**

**Agro-forestry**

1. Educating farmers on benefits and misconceptions on growing trees on farm bunds or farmlands
2. Only 20 States have so far relaxed transit rules which is the corner stone for promoting agro-forestry. Policy for allowing inter State trade on the basis of a national permit moving towards a national agriculture market.
3. Unfavourable export import policy
4. Development of suitable agro-forestry models

**Bamboo**

1. Increasing market demand for bamboo based construction material
2. Increasing productivity and selection of species required for specific industry
3. Market channels for bamboo and other tree species
4. Commodity based cluster development for both agri., horti. as well as tree species given the priority to agro-forestry and bamboo
5. Branding of niche products for improved marketing

**Theme 2, Trade Policy and Export Promotion**

**Agro-forestry**

1. Unfavorable import duty regime for bamboo sticks and raw agarbatti.

**Horticulture**

1. Need for GAP standardization for horticulture crops – residue free produce for exports and domestic market
2. Logistics, processing, market openings. Could be the gateway for export to entire SE Asia
3. Clusters for growing and marketing of horti crops like broccoli, red cabbage, olives, pineapple, strawberry, oranges, ginger, turmeric (high curcumin), cashew, coconut, areca nut, pepper, cinnamon and a variety of local unheard of fruits; red rice, black rice, joha rice, etc
4. Cultivation of medical and aromatic plants
5. Special focus on bamboo and cane

**Crops**

1. Increased import duty:Recently, the Department has increased import duty on crude and refined oils and this will trigger the domestic price of oilseeds and help in better capacity utilization of oil mills. However, what should be the strategy for a stable trade regime?
2. Identification and facilitation of cash crops cultivation - Huge demand abroad for crops like stevia, ginger essence,etc

**Theme 3, Marketing, Agri Logistics and Agri Value system**

**3.1**

**Horticulture**

1. Crop Planning advice including market intelligence at the time of sowing
2. Inadequate post-harvest infrastructure: Sorting, Grading, Packaging, Storage, Transportation

**Marketing**

1. Post-harvest technology and training farmers on post-harvest management including primary value addition such as cleaning, sorting etc.
2. What should be the robust mechanism for procurement and disposal of agricultural commodities for example pulses, oilseeds, onions, potatoes, tomatoes.
3. The utility of price and demand forecast system for various crops. And how an institutional system can be put in place

**Crops**

1. Oil Extraction Units: Creation of small Oil Extraction Units at Panchayat level through FPOs/Cooperatives/Self Help Groups/ Farmers Association /KVKs and such registered cooperatives may be encouraged. This will create end-to-end infrastructure and would develop confidence in the farmers for more area coverage under oilseeds.

**3.2**

**Marketing**

1. Establishment of integrated value chain system to promote farm and fork linkages

**Theme 4, Science and Technology and Start-ups in Agriculture**

**4.1**

**Insurance**

1. Strategies/methodology for optimizing the number of crop cutting experiments under PMFBY/developing improved models of yield estimation.
2. Leverage technology for minimizing the discrepancies between areas sowed and unsowed.

**4.2**

**Theme 5, Sustainable Agricultural Development and Efficiency of Delivery**

**5.1**

**Soil Health Management**

1. Simplified procedure for soil testing- development of hand held device
2. Soil health cards recommendations based fertilizer distribution at ground level:
3. Seeding of SHC portal with integrated fertiliser management system (i-FMS)
4. Ensuring Aadhaar details of farmers on SHC portal has become difficult as many of owners have leased out their lands/ absentee landlords
5. Involvement of retailers at district/ block/village level by incentivizing them for sale of fertilizers as per recommendations
6. Motivating farmers to use SHC recommendation based fertilizer-possible areas that requires focus:
   * linking SHC with Kisan credit card,
   * SHC mandatory for availing subsidy under other schemes
   * 1% money back for farmers

**Organic farming**

1. Validation of various traditional organic farming practices prevailing in the country
2. Availability of organic inputs to organic cultivators - like organic seeds, bio-fertilisers, bio-pesticides in enough quantities
3. Mapping of organic farming areas
4. Block linkages of- organic producers - processing- transport-marketing – better price realisation
5. Setting up of organic produce processing units and making them viable in North eastern region
6. Market linkages and better price realisation to NE products

**Micro Irrigation**

1. Awareness on benefits of MI especially in the States which at present are not water deficit, but the problem looms large
2. Increased subsidy by MNRE for solar powered pumps for use in MI since the price difference is at least 4 times
3. PPP mode of installation and maintenance of MI; community MI systems
4. Cost effective technology for close spaced crops like paddy and other cereals
5. Cost effective technology for brackish water

**Horticulture**

1. Skill Gap in emerging areas of protected cultivation, hydroponics, precision farming.

**Crops**

1. Additional area through inter-cropping and in non-traditional areas:There is a scope to bring additional 2.00 million haunder oilseeds cultivation through inter-cropping and promoting oilseeds in non-traditional Southern, Eastern and NE States.
2. Low profitability/low remuneration in comparison to competing crops like Maize, Cotton and Sugarcane etc.

**5.2**

**Horticulture**

1. Need to realign government schemes towards promotion of horticulture sector- PMFBY, Mushroom cultivation etc.

**Theme 6, Capital investments for Agriculture and Institutional Credit for Farmers**

**Agro-forestry**

1. Make bamboo industry a priority sector for lending – nurseries, MSME or large industry, attractive loans to persons willing to take up large scale bamboo plantations;

**Marketing**

1. Similar to production credit with interest subvention, marketing credit is required for small and marginal farmers to undertake cleaning, grading, packing etc.

**Insurance**

1. What should be the strategy for increasing coverage of non loanee farmers under PMFBY.
2. Strategies/methodology for optimizing the number of crop cutting experiments under PMFBY/developing improved models of yield estimation.

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