

MOST IMMEDIATE
BY SPEED POST/SPECIAL MESSENGER

No. CPS. 2-6/2009-NFSM
Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture & cooperation
NFSM Cell

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
Dated the 30th December, 2009.

Subject: Minutes of the **Third Meeting of National Food Security Mission General Council (NFSMGC)** held on 07.12.2009 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (A&C) in Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi-Regarding.

The undersigned is directed to enclose herewith a copy of the Minutes of the **Third Meeting of National Food Security Mission General Council (NFSMGC)** held on 07.12.2009 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (A&C) in Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi in Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi for information and necessary action.

The receipt of this letter may kindly be acknowledged.

Encl: As above.

(A. Neeraja)
Director (Crops)

Distribution:

1. Secretary (A&C),
Deptt. of Agri. & Coopn.
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Secretary (DARE) & DG (ICAR),
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. Secretary, Deptt. of Expenditure,
Ministry of Finance, North Block, New
Delhi.
4. Adviser (Agriculture),
Planning Commission,
Yojana Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. Agriculture Commissioner,
DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
6. Joint secretary (Crops) & National
Mission Director (NFSM), DAC, Krishi
Bhawan, New Delhi.
7. Dr. S. K. Datta, DDG (CS), ICAR,
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
8. Dr. B. C. Barah, Director, NCAP,
ICAR, NASC Complex, DPS Marg,
Pusa, New Delhi.
9. Dr. B. Rajender, Director of Agriculture,
Govt. of Bihar, Patna.
10. Shri D. Narendranath, PRADAN, No.
3, Community Shopping Centre,
Nitibagh, New Delhi-110049.

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11. Shri Ashok Kumar, PRADAN, 3rd Floor, Rukmini Tower, Harmu Road, Near Gaushala, Ranchi, Jharkhand.
12. Shri Arvind Kumar Chaudhary, Project Director, Bihar Rural Livelihood Promotion Society, Vidyut Bhawan, Annex-II, Bailey Road, Patna.
13. Shri Devraj Behera, SPM Livelihood, Bihar Rural Livelihood Promotion Society, Vidyut Bhawan, Annex-II, Bailey Road, Patna.
14. Dr. J. P. Tandon, Ex-ADG (FFC), A-72, Sector-14, Noida (UP)
15. Dr. U. S. Singh, IRRI Representative, NASC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi.

Copy for information and necessary action to:

1. Shri P. K. Basu, Additional Secretary, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Shri A.S. Lamba, Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. Shri G. C. Pati, Additional Secretary, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. Shri N. K. Das, Additional Secretary, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. Ms. Upma Chawdhry, Joint secretary (Seeds), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
6. Shri Mukesh Khullar, Joint Secretary (Crops), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
7. Shri K. V. Krishnan, Senior Adviser, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
8. Shri Rajeev Lochan, Adviser (AS), Dte. of E & S, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
9. Shri E. K. Majhi, Joint secretary (M&T, NRM, RFS), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
10. Er. Omkar Singh, Deputy Commissioner (Machinery), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
11. Dr. R. S. Saini, National Consultant (NFSM), Beej Bhawan, Pusa Complex, New Delhi.
12. Dr. Shankar Lal, National Consultant (NFSM), Beej Bhawan, Pusa Complex, New Delhi.
13. Dr. R. K. Gupta, National Consultant (NFSM), Beej Bhawan, Pusa Complex, New Delhi.
14. Dr. D. N. Singh, National Consultant (NFSM), Beej Bhawan, Pusa Complex, New Delhi.
15. Ms. A. Neeraja, Director (Crops), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
16. Dr. G. K. Choudhury, Director (Wheat), Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
17. Shri R. N. Verma, Assistant Commissioner (NFSM), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
18. Shri S. Bhattacharya, Under Secretary, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
19. Shri S. R. Kachru, Assistant Director (NFSM), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
20. Shri Narender Kumar, Assistant Director (NFSM), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.

Copy also to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Agriculture Minister.

**MINUTES OF THE 3RD MEETING OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL UNDER THE
CHAIRMANSHIP OF HONOURABLE AGRICULTURE MINISTER REPRESENTED BY
SECRETARY (A & C), MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
HELD ON 7TH DECEMBER, 2009 AT NEW DELHI.**

The 3rd Meeting of the General Council was held on 7th December, 2009 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (A&C) due to sudden preoccupation of the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister in the Parliament.

The list of participants is enclosed at **Annexure-I**.

1. **Agenda 1:** The minutes of the second meeting of NFSMGC held on 16th December, 2008 were confirmed as there were no amendments suggested by any members. Secretary (A&C) conveyed the following observations of Hon'ble AM for further clarifications:
 - 1.1. GC meeting should have been arranged in June '09. It was explained to him that due to General Elections held from March to May, 09 and drought in Kharif season, the meeting could not be arranged as scheduled. However, in future time schedules would be adhered to.
 - 1.2. Hybrid Rice should be promoted through increased attention of seed minikits in view of the huge targeted area to be covered. In this regard, it was clarified that hybrid rice is promoted not only through minikits, but also through production and distribution subsidies that are given to farmers. Secretary (A&C) said that targets of seed minikits may be doubled this year and for that advance planning with NSC, SFCl and other state seed producing agencies should be done.
 - 1.3. Review of the potential for area expansion under Pulses should be assessed and presented especially in the context of the Pilot project of ICRISAT for taking up additional pulses area in the rainfed rice fallows.
2. **Agenda 2:** National Mission Director (NFSM) presented the impact of NFSM interventions in increasing the production of rice, wheat and pulses during 07-08 and 08-09 vis-à-vis projected target. Highlighting the adverse impact of drought in Kharif 2009 on crop area coverage and production, he detailed the planning for increased area coverage and production under wheat and pulses during Rabi season to compensate the losses to some extent. He emphasized the need for promotion of resource conservation technologies like zero tillage, SRI /SWI; promotion of drought and submergence tolerance varieties of rice and heat tolerant varieties of wheat as sustainable strategies to mitigate climate change effects for maintaining the desired level of food grain production. He informed that pulses production strategy under NFSM was being revamped with an emphasis on realizing the yield potential and area expansion of pulses through promotion of summer moong in Punjab, block demonstrations in potential areas, control of blue bull menace, merger of NFSM & ISOPOM, etc. Participation of all stakeholders including non-governmental organizations in mission activities to deepen its reach was emphasized.

3. While discussing the performance of states, Secretary (A&C) opined that states with less than 50% achievement should review and analyze the reasons for low performance. He suggested that low performing districts should be dropped and instead new suitable districts should be included. He desired that a meeting of Hon'ble AM with Agriculture ministers of low performing states could be organized to address their problems in achieving the targets. Keeping in view the popularity of farm machinery such as laser land levelers, it was proposed to introduce land levelers on custom hiring basis among cooperatives/ farmers groups by providing 50% of the purchase cost under NFSM. He also suggested states involvement in regulating the hiring charges as per the existing rule/laws/guidelines. Discussing the factors limiting pulses production, Secretary also emphasized the importance of pest control measures in enhancing pulses production.

4. **Agenda 3. Strategies for enhancing rice, wheat and pulses production**
 - 4.1. Dr. U. S. Singh, representative of IRRI stated in his presentation that they had, in collaboration with ICAR, developed submergence tolerant new Swarna Sub-1 variety of rice. He proposed collaborative partnership with NFSM in promoting the submergence resistance variety through minikits, demonstrations, etc. in the target areas. Dissemination of knowledge through workshops, farmers' trainings, exchange visits, etc. were also proposed by IRRI. Secretary (A&C) welcomed such new research developments that could provide advantage to crops in withstanding adverse situations. MOU between IRRI, Manila and NFSM of Ministry of Agriculture for collaborative working was approved.

 - 4.2. PRADAN, an NGO, shared their experience on SRI method of rice cultivation as promoted in Bihar and West Bengal and its advantages over traditional rice cultivation. Appreciating the effectiveness of such project based efforts by agencies/NGOs like Pradan in promoting resource conservation technologies among the small and marginal farmers, Secretary (A&C) asked the NFSM Cell to assess the feasibility of scaling up such initiatives by engaging with the NGOs working in different parts of the country. He urged for proper documentation of the work for assessing the real yield advantages of the SRI method. Development of SRI models suitable to different agro-climatic zones was also suggested.

 - 4.3. Shri A. K. Choudhary, Chief of JEEVIKA, a World Bank sponsored rural development project in Bihar, presented the detailed technique for implementation of System of Wheat Intensification in Nalanda and Gaya districts of Bihar. Intake of less seed quantity and higher yields were mentioned to be the advantages of this method of cultivation. Secretary (A&C) stressed upon the need for encouraging such innovative resource conservation technologies at district level under local initiatives. He asked ICAR to provide scientific evidence for the projected yields. It was proposed to collect the data from large areas for arriving at realistic production figures rather than projecting isolated examples.

- 4.4. Prospects of promotion of summer pulses in Punjab and Haryana under rice - wheat rotation was discussed. It was decided that additional support from NFSM can be provided for promoting summer moong, if required. It was informed that the summer moong variety SML 668 (a 60 days maturity variety) would fit very well into the Rice- wheat-Summer pulses system because of its short crop duration and its preference amongst the farmers. In view of the stagnating pulses production, Secretary (A&C) stressed on the necessity of such measures for increased pulses production. Involvement of NAFED for procurement of pulses at MSP was agreed.
5. Extent of damage to pulses crop by blue bulls was considered very serious. It was decided that immediate action should be initiated as a follow up of the decisions arrived at in the recently held brainstorming session on control of blue bull menace.
6. Post facto approval and new approvals for the following was discussed in the GC and approval was accorded.

6.1. Revised Operational Guidelines were approved post facto as below.

Paras deleted from old guidelines	Paras Modified from old guidelines	Paras added in new guidelines	Subject
Mission Structure			
4.5	4.15	4.17, 4.18, 4.20	Six Consultants in identified fields of expertise and eight Senior Technical Assistants would be hired on contract basis. Additional Consultants can be in Publicity and Communications, Financial Management, Information Management etc. The pay of Senior Technical Assistants will be regulated from time to time according to Research Associates in ICAR / NAIP Projects, ICAR institutes/ SAUs and KVKs to provide staff for technical support

Criteria for Identification of Areas and Beneficiaries and procedure for approval and implementation			
	11.3, 13.2	12.2	Maximum limit for assistance raised to 5 hectares, SFSMEC empowered to make inter-componental Changes. The Pulse component of ISOPOM will cease to operate in these 171 identified districts except for the components which are not covered under NFSM Pulses.
Demonstrations			
14.1 (v-ix)	14.1 (ii, iv,)	14.1 (v-xiv)	Clarified about the number of demonstrations, deleted the nodal agencies for conducting demonstrations, Guidelines for conducting filed demonstrations are included and cost norms made uniform for all type of demonstrations.
Seed			
14.2.4 (ii) ; 14.2.5 (I,ii,), 14.2.6	14.2.1 (ii), 14.2.5 (iii, iv, vi,), 14.2.8	14.2.1 (v a-e), 14.2.8 (v)	The name “Central seed Committee” changed to “Seed Committee” SAUs and state seed corporations added for production of seed, Plan for administration of seed subsidy at source given, conduct of minikit on hybrid rice □included, size of minikits increased, agency to monitor the implementation of minikits identified, upper limit for availing seed subsidy by a farmer fixed,
Nutrient management/ soil ameliorants			
14.3.1. (iii) 14.3.2 (iv), 14.3.3 (iii)	14.3.1, 14.3.2,		Use of Liming material added. Recommendation of SAU to be followed, Package of gypsum and micronutrient was included in wheat
Mechanization			
14.4.1 (iii)	14.4. (v); 14.4.2; 14.4.3; 14.5 (I & ii); 14.6;	14.4.4;	SAUs also included as certifying agency for machinery, Power weeder, seed drill, Multi-crop planter, knapsack sprayers added to list of implements , all implements extended to all three crops except cono-weeder limited to rice and sprinkler sets not included in rice. H.P of pump sets revised up to 10 H.P. and all the states made eligible for pump sets except for block categorised as dark or brown zones.

Integrated Pest Management		
	14.7.1 (ii)	Upper limit raised to 5 ha for availing assistance under this component.
Training of Trainers and Extension Workers in Pulses		
	14.8	Guidelines for conduct of training and cost norms given.
Training of Farmers on FFS Pattern		
	14.8	Pulses included for conducting FFS, Cost norms revised within the overall ceiling; flexibility provided in the number of sessions
Award for best performing district		
	14.11 (ii)	Clarified number of awards to be given
Annexure		
	Annexure II c	Two districts of Punjab and one of Rajasthan added
	Annexure III	Summary of Pattern of Assistance in rice, wheat and pulses
	Annexure IV	Duties of Consultants and Technical Assistants Engaged at National, state and District Level.

- 6.2. NFSMGC approved the increased level of subsidy for rice & wheat from the existing level of Rs. 5/- to Rs. 7/- and for pulses from Rs. 12/- to Rs. 20/- per kg. for seed distribution during the rabi/summer season of the current year (2009-10) .
- 6.3. Inclusion of districts in Assam and Jharkhand based on their contribution to total pulses area was discussed at length. After discussion, in principle approval was accorded for inclusion of ten districts of Assam (Barpeta, Nagaon, Sonitpur, Dhubri, Baksa, Kamrup, Jorhat, Udalguri, Bongaigaon, Kokrajhar) and 15 districts of Jharkhand (Gumla, Palamu, Simdega, Garhwa, Latehar, Ranchi, West Singhbhumii, Sarai Kela, Dumka, Giridih, Lohardaga, Hazribagh, Pakur, Chatara and Sahebganj)under NFSM Pulses with effect from 2010-11.
- 6.4. Importance of merger of ISOPOM and NFSM areas/components for unifying the efforts of pulses production and implementation of Accelerated Pulses Production Programme (A3P) in block demonstration mode for enhanced pulses production was appreciated by General Council. Adviser (Agri), Planning Commission present in the meeting informed the house of the consent of Planning Commission to the CCEA proposal sent earlier.
- 6.5. Approval of inclusion of educational qualifications for publicity and financial management consultants, as per the agenda note was agreed and approved. Council recommended for early engagement of consultant for streamlining the financial and publicity issues related to NFSM
- 6.6. Outsourcing of concurrent evaluation and financial allocation for outsourcing as per procedure prescribed in the “Hand book of Concurrent Evaluation” (amendment to para 10.2 of the revised guidelines) was approved by GC members as per the agenda note.

- 6.7. Proposal for Impact Evaluation Studies of NFSM at the end of 5 years (Amendment of para 10.4) was approved.
- 6.8. Approval of Amendment to para 14.11 relating to “Award for the best performing districts” as per the Hand book on Methodology of awards under NFSM” was accorded by General Council.
7. It was decided to obtain a detailed note on the competence of NAFED before finalizing the inclusion of the organization as nodal agency for minikits/seed production/seed distribution under NFSM.
8. **The following action points emerged during the discussions:**
 - 8.1. A compliance note should be submitted to Hon’ble A.M on exploring the potential of rice fallows for pulses production; minutes of blue bull meeting; potential of SRI, SWI strategies for enhanced rice and wheat production; potential of Summer moong in Punjab & Haryana for enhanced pulses production; progress report on ICRISAT projects, etc .(**Action: NFSM Cell**)
 - 8.2. Meeting for effective planning for promotion of hybrids in consultation with ICAR/ DDG (Crop Sciences) should be arranged.(**Action: NFSM Cell/ICAR**)
 - 8.3. Technical committee meeting with NSC, SFCI and other state seed producing agencies should be held for deciding the targets of HYV/ Hybrid minikits for 2010-11 as per the enhanced allocations (**Action: NFSM Cell**)
 - 8.4. Inclusion of Land Levelers under machinery component of NFSM to be made available to group of farmers/ cooperatives with individual subsidy of Rs 15000 as in zero till seed drills should be considered as great demand exists for the land levelers. Proposal in this regard to be submitted to GC for approval (**Action: NFSM Cell**)
 - 8.5. Detailed report on crop damage by blue bull should be submitted so that a consolidated proposal could be sent to Ministry of Environment and Forests (**Action: States/ NFSM Cell**)
 - 8.6. A Meeting of Hon’ble A.M with Agriculture Ministers of states that are lagging behind should be arranged to understand the problems and provide support in implementation of the scheme.(**Action: NFSM Cell**)
 - 8.7. MoU should be signed and detailed action plan to be chalked out for promotion of pre-released swarna sub-1 variety through minikits/ demonstrations from 2010-11 (**Action: IRR/ NFSM Cell**)
 - 8.8. Successful project based efforts of agencies/NGOs in promoting resource conservation technologies like SRI should be supported at Ministry level for replication under NFSM. Proposal in this regard needs to be submitted to GC (**Action: NFSM Cell**)

- 8.9.** Models of SRI under implementation in different states should be collected and suitable SRI technologies be framed for different agro climatic conditions of the states. **(Action: DRR/ National Consultant (NFSM)).**
- 8.10.** Scientific basis for the projected yield potential under System of Wheat Intensification be studied in depth and intimated to the Ministry **(Action: DWR/Bihar).**
- 8.11.** Resource conservation technologies like SWI should be considered at district level under local initiatives. A communication could be sent to states in this regard **(Action: States/NFSM Cell)**
- 8.12.** Potential of Summer Moong production in Punjab and Haryana is promising. Assistance from NFSM should be made available on requirement and NAFED should be involved in procurement of pulses at MSP. **(Action: NFSM Cell/ NFSM Consultant)**

List of Participants in the Third Meeting of National Food Security Mission General Council (NFSMGC) held on 07.12.2009 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (A&C) in Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.

(A) Members of the General Council:

1. Secretary (A&C), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Dr. V. V. Sadamate, Adviser (Agriculture), Planning Commission, Yojana Bhawan, New Delhi.

(B). Department of Agriculture & Cooperation:

3. Shri P. K. Basu, Additional Secretary, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. Shri A.S. Lamba, Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. Shri G. C. Pati, Additional Secretary, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
6. Shri N. K. Das, Additional Secretary, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
7. Shri K. V. Krishnan, Senior Adviser, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
8. Shri Rajeev Lochan, Adviser (AS), Dte. of E & S, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
9. Shri Mukesh Khullar, Joint secretary (Crops), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
10. Ms. Upma Chawdhry, Joint secretary (Seeds), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
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18. Dr. G. K. Choudhury, Director (Wheat), Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
19. Shri R. N. Verma, Assistant Commissioner (NFSM), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
20. Shri S. Bhattacharya, Under Secretary, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
21. Shri S. R. Kachru, Assistant Director (NFSM), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
22. Shri Narender Kumar, Assistant Director (NFSM), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
23. Shri Ashok Kumar Singh, STA (NFSM), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
24. Shri Bhupender Singh, TA (NFSM), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
25. Shri Dushyant Mishra, TA (NFSM), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
26. Ms. Sarika Namdev, TA (NFSM), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
27. Shri Suraj Prakash, Web Designer, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.

(C) ICAR:

28. Dr. S. K. Datta, DDG (CS), ICAR, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
29. Dr. B. C. Barah, Director, NCAP, ICAR, NASC Complex, DPS Marg, Pusa, New Delhi.

(D) State Department of Agriculture:

30. Dr. B. Rajender, Director of Agriculture & Mission Director (NFSM), Govt. of Bihar, Patna.

(E) NGOs:

31. Shri D. Narendranath, PRADAN, No. 3, Community Shopping Centre, Nitibagh, New Delhi-110049.
32. Shri Ashok Kumar, PRADAN, 3rd Floor, Rukmini Tower, Harmu Road, Near Gaushala, Ranchi, Jharkhand.
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(F) Others:

35. Dr. J. P. Tandon, Ex-ADG (FFC), A-72, Sector-14, Noida (UP)
36. Dr. U. S. Singh, IRRI Representative, NASC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi.
