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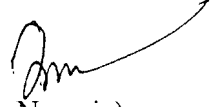
No. CPS. 7-3/2007-NFSM
Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture & Cooperation

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
Dated the 14th November, 2007.

Subject: Minutes of the First Meeting of the National Food Security Mission Executive Committee (NFSM-EC) held on 16th October 2007 in Committee Room No.1, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Secretary (A&C) – Regarding.

Please find enclosed herewith a copy of Minutes of the First Meeting of the National Food Security Mission Executive Committee (NFSM-EC) held on 16th October 2007 in Committee Room No.1, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Secretary (A&C) for information and necessary action.

Encl: As above.


(A. Neeraja)
Director (Crops)

Distribution:

State Department of Agriculture:

1. Shri H. Ramalu, Special Secretary, Agriculture, Government of West Bengal, **Kolkata.**
2. Dr. S.D. Chatterjee, Additional Director of Agriculture, Govt. of West Bengal, **Kolkata.**
3. Shri D.J. Dharaiya, Additional Secretary (Agriculture), Government of Gujarat, **Gandhi Nagar.**
4. Dr. R.A. Sherasiya, Director of Agriculture, Govt. of Gujarat, **Ahmedabad.**
5. Shri Pratap Kridutta, Director of Agriculture, Govt. of Chhattisgarh, **Raipur.**
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24. Dr. Krishna, Commissioner (Agriculture), Govt. of Maharashtra, **Pune.**
25. Shri Ashish Bahuguna, Principal Secretary (Agriculture), Govt. of Rajasthan, **Jaipur.**
26. Shri Harminder Raj Singh, Principal Secretary (Agriculture), Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, **Lucknow.**
27. Shri M. Gautam, Additional Director of Agriculture (Extn), Govt. of Uttar Pradesh, **Lucknow.**
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36. Shri S. Selvaraj, Deputy Commissioner (Seeds), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
37. Dr. A.P. Singh, Deputy Commissioner (TMOP), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
38. Dr. G. k. Choudary, Director, Directorate of Wheat Development, Ghaziabad.
39. Dr. A.K. Tiwari, Director, Directorate of Pulses Development, Vindhyachal Bhawan, Bhopal, New Delhi.
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- ✓ 44. Shri Ashok Kumar Singh, Senior Technical assistant, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
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47. Shri A.K. Parashar, Economic Adviser, Deptt. of Fertiliser, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi.
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Members Executive Committee

53. Shri E.A. Siddiq, Chair Distinguished, CDFD, Acharya N.G. Ranga Agriculture University, Hyderabad
54. Dr. J.P. Tandon, Specialist (Wheat).
55. Dr. B.C. Barah, Principal Scientist, NCAP, Pusa, New Delhi.

ICAR/Other Research Institutes

56. Shri V.D. Patil, ADG (O&D), ICAR

Copy for information to:

Joint Secretary (Crops) & Mission Director (NFSM)

**Minutes of the first meeting of
National Food Security Mission Executive Committee (NFSMEC) held on
16th October, 2007 under the chairmanship of Secretary (A&C)**

1. The first meeting of National Food Security Mission Executive Committee (NFSMEC) was held on 16-10-07 under the chairmanship of Secretary (A&C) at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi to consider for approval the State Annual Action Plans for the year 2007-08 for implementation of National Food Security Mission.
2. The list of participants is placed at Annexure.
3. Secretary (A&C) in his opening remarks outlined the genesis of the National Food Security Mission and its significance in augmenting the production of rice, wheat and pulses in the country. He emphasized that State Governments should utilize the opportunity for mobilizing the resources available under the Mission for achieving higher food grains production and productivity. **He also stated that addition and deletion of districts as demanded in the Rabi conference, might not be possible immediately and hence States should implement the programme as such. Any proposal for exchange of the districts could be considered only if it was based on the objective and just criteria. He also suggested that the states should try to leverage the funds available under the other newly launched Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). He also emphasized that the States should stick to the targets committed by them during the visit of Prime Minister.**
4. Joint Secretary (Crops) and Mission Director (NFSM), made a presentation on the various aspects of the National Food Security Mission and the amount of assistance provided under its components. The States Plans for the year 2007-08 were discussed thereafter.
5. **An amount of Rs 127.24 crores was allocated to the following states: A.P, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Karnataka, M.P, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Rest of the states were asked to identify and send the name of State level Autonomous Agencies for receiving funds under NFSM.**
6. Secretary (A&C) & Chairman of NFSMEC asked the States to conduct baseline survey of the identified districts. He also suggested that the work could be given to the Statistics wing of the Department as the baseline could be prepared on the basis of secondary data , e.g. on agriculture domestic product, already available.(states)

7. There were several issues which were highlighted by the States and also by the Experts of the National Food Security Mission Executive Committee:
- I. **Promotion of hybrid rice technology** in the rice growing States. Most of the States and the experts were of the view that this technology should be actively promoted under NFSM. Agriculture Commissioner, Dr E.A. Siddiq, Expert, NFSMEC and other Members of NFSMEC were of the view that suitable hybrids in rice having better local acceptability should be developed and promoted. Dr Siddiq made a mention of Andhra Pradesh where short duration hybrids were required. (*Action: ICAR*)
 - II. **Promotion of improved varieties of Wheat:** Dr J.P.Tondon, Expert, NFSMEC observed that the States must promote location specific high yielding varieties of wheat notified of late. He particularly mentioned the varieties released from Niphad Centre in Maharashtra, Junagarh and Indore for Gujarat and BHU, Varanasi for Bihar (*States*)
 - III. **System of rice intensification (SRI):** Dr EA Siddiq observed that the technology should be promoted during rabi season in Andhra Pradesh and other Rabi rice growing states in suitable growing conditions. Dr. Siddiq pointed out that SRI was a good package but considering the large scale implementation planned under the Mission, there was a need for technical backup of the technology and its management at the National Level. (*States & ICAR*)
 - IV. **Green Manuring:** Dr J.P. Tandon, Expert, NFSMEC emphasized promotion of green manuring in Punjab, besides following the fertilizer application schedules/timing for phosphorous and potash to the farmers. He was of the opinion that DAP should be used as basal placement rather than by way of broadcast. (*states*)
 - V. **Seed:**
 - (i) Most of the States requested that due to the non availability of the prescribed age of the varieties to be promoted under the seed minikit and for availing the distribution subsidy, the age limit of the varieties should be relaxed at least for this season. Efforts would be made by the respective State Seeds producing agencies to build up over time adequate quantities of the desired varieties. Considering the operational difficulties the suggestion was accepted. Clarification in this regard would be issued to all the States. (*NFSM Cell*)

- (ii) Government of Maharashtra expressed their concern about shortage of Gram seed. Government of Bihar expressed their concern about non availability of seeds of wheat this season due to damage of farm saved seeds in heavy floods. The State requested that about 1.0 lakh Qtls of wheat seed may be provided in the form of seed minikits. State Government indicated that there was likely shortage of seed as floods have devastated the seeds producing fields also. He requested that large quantity of seed should be ensured to the states to gear up the programme. He further requested that zero tillage target and number of minikits allotted to the States should be enhanced. (**Seed Division / States/ NFSM cell**)
- (iii) NFSMEC experts were of the opinion that considering the market and the production potential, promotion of durum and dicocum varieties in the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh should be encouraged (**States**)
- (iv) Enhancement in the rate of subsidy for hybrid rice seed was requested by several States particularly Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu. It was clarified to the States that Hybrid Rice subsidy was being extended for the first time in any Government Program and a modest area coverage target was kept. If the implementation was good a case for enhancing the subsidy could be considered at a later date. For the moment, the States were asked to work within the approved subsidy amount.
- (v) Uttar Pradesh expressed their concern about shortage of seed during the current year. They emphasized the need for involving private sector partnership for production of breeder seed which could prove beneficial for meeting the demand in coming season. (**Seed Division**)
- (vi) Dr. E.A. Siddiq and Dr. J.P. Tondon, Experts, NFSMEC emphasized for the development of high temperate tolerant varieties of wheat. Dr. Siddiq also observed that there was no hybrid rice available for Tamil Nadu (**ICAR**).
- (vii) Agriculture Commissioner asked the States to plan seed production programme in advance to meet the increasing demand of rice, wheat and pulses. (**states**)
- VI. **Publicity and Training:** Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and some other States stated that they were making all out efforts for wider publicity of National

Food Security Mission through print and electronic media. States were asked to expedite sending their detailed publicity plan at an early date so that the releases on account of publicity expenditure could be made well in time. (**States**)

VII. **Identification of districts** : Several States requested for change in the identified districts:

- (i) Uttar Pradesh desired to include Mathura, Barabanki, Mainpuri and Kushinagar districts in place of Lalitpur, Mahoba, Chitrakoot and Mirzapur under NFSM - Wheat.
- (ii) Tamil Nadu requested to include two more districts under NFSM – Rice in addition to 5 identified for the programme. They observed that the benchmark year 2003-04 taken for the identification of the district was a drought year in the State. Hence, it did not correctly reflect the production benchmark. Instead, they identified seven districts on the basis of seven years' average data.
- (iii) Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Assam also made similar observations to include or replace some of the districts under NFSM.
- (iv) It was clarified to the States that the changes would not exceed the number of districts already finalized and secondly the changes must be supported by a good justification in a proposal to be made by the States so that the same could be decided by the Governing Council of the Mission. States were asked to make the proposal in a manner that the changed districts' interest were not harmed and that the suggested Districts stand out uniquely to the exclusion of others not selected.

VIII. **Miscellaneous issues:**

- (i) Maharashtra requested to include diesel pump sets under NFSM programme because of power shortage in the State. It was clarified that NFSM Wheat had the provision of the water pump sets.
- (ii) Uttar Pradesh Government requested for provision of distribution of grain bin for storage, vermi compost and enhancement of subsidy for sprinkler sets from Rs. 7500 to Rs. 15000 as provided under ISOPOM. Besides this, they requested to increase honorarium of facilitators from Rs. 75/- to 150/- per session. They further requested to increase the assistance for gypsum from Rs.500/- to Rs.750/- per ha. It was clarified that there was no scope for any upward revision of the subsidy amount. However, for some

components like Farmers' Field School the details could be reviewed to increase the honorarium by reducing the number of the sessions.

- (iii) Tamil Nadu asked for clarifications with respect to non applicability of the ISOPOM to the NFSM Districts. They wanted a change of the word District with the additional area proposed to be covered under the Mission so that the rest of the area of the District continued to get the benefits of the ISOPOM scheme. (**TMOP Division**)
 - (iv) Rajasthan requested to provide funds at district level for publicity in addition to the funds provided at State level. It was clarified that the States' could decide the allocation to the Districts as per the Publicity plan approved by the SFMEC on the advice of the Publicity sub committee. They also requested to ensure regular supply of DAP during Rabi and Kharif seasons to attain the desired crop outputs in the Mission Districts. (**Department of Fertilizers**)
 - (v) Dr. Borah emphasized the involvement of people participatory groups in the implementation of various interventions of the Mission. (**States**)
 - (vi) Agriculture Commissioner and Dr. J.P. Tondon, Expert NFSMEC stressed the use of zero tillage machines on priority in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar to facilitate timely sowing of wheat in rice – wheat system. (**States**)
8. The National Food Security Mission Executive Committee approved the State Plans for 2007-08 in principle subject to their conformity with norms as laid in Operational Guidelines and allocation made to different components for the year 2007-08.
9. The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to the Chair.

ANNEXURE-I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS THE FIRST MEETING OF NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY MISSION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (NFSM-EC) CONVENED UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SECRETARY (A&C) TO CONSIDER THE STATE ANNUAL ACTION PLAN HELD ON 16.10.2007 IN COMMITTEE ROOM NO.1, KRISHI BHAWAN, NEW DELHI AT 10.30 A.M.

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