

**BY SPECIAL MESSENGER**

No. CPS 7-12/2007-NFSM  
Government of India  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Department of Agriculture & Cooperation  
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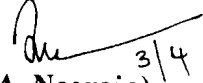
Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.  
Dated the 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2008

**Subject:** Minutes of the First Meeting of General Council of National Food security Mission held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Agriculture Minister on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2008 in Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi- Regarding.

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The undersigned is directed to enclose herewith a copy of the Minutes of the First Meeting of General Council of National Food security Mission held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Agriculture Minister on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2008 in Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi for information and necessary action.

**Encl:** As above.

  
(A. Neeraja) 3/4  
**Director (Crops)**

**Distribution:**

1. Secretary (A&C), Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Secretary, DARE & DG, ICAR, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, North Block, New Delhi.
4. Agriculture Commissioner, Government of India, Krishi hawan, New Delhi.
5. Adviser (Agriculture), Planning Commission, Yojna Bhawan, New Delhi.
6. Mission Director (NFSM), Ministry of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.

**Copy for information to PS to Hon'ble Agriculture Minister.**

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The first meeting of the General Council (GC) of the National Food Security Mission was held under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Agriculture Minister on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2008. The list of the participants is presented at **Annexure-I**.

The Agriculture Commissioner said in his opening remarks that the Mission has been operational from the Rabi Season, 2007. He informed the General Council about the initiative/steps taken by the Government. He said the task was challenging in terms of promoting new technologies but hoped that looking at the enthusiastic support of the State Governments, with better planning, continuous interaction with the field functionaries in the States and monitoring, it would not be difficult to achieve the objectives set forth in the Mission.

3. The Mission Director, NFSM presented the current status of the Mission in three broad categories viz. Situation Analysis, Implementation during the year and the required next steps for the next kharif season/year. He informed about the salient outputs of the Mission in terms of the physical and the financial progress by different states on the different programmatic interventions approved under the NFSM. He said that the Mission districts were recording very high consumption of the technological inputs with NFSM support and it would be possible to achieve the production targets for wheat, rice and pulses set for the year. He said that, based on the experience so far, efforts were being made to consolidate the initial gains through strengthening of the Mission administration, more vigorous involvement of the stakeholders in different components, particularly for ensuring adequate availability of quality seeds, and establishing linkages with the other schemes of the Department like RKVY etc.
4. After the presentation on the current status, the agenda was taken up item by item for discussion.
5. **For ex-post facto approvals:**

Agenda items on proposal for which the approval of the Chairman and Union Agriculture Minister was taken earlier, from time to time, to facilitate smooth operations of the Scheme were placed before the General Council for ex-post facto approvals.

- 5.1 **Operational Guidelines:** The Mission Director stated that after the CCEA approval, operational guidelines were prepared in August 2007 itself for immediate circulation to the States so as to launch the scheme from the Rabi Season itself. He added that, based on these guidelines, states prepared their Action Plans and began implementation of the same in time for reaching out to the farmers in the selected districts with the full bouquet of services. Taking note of the fact that no major difficulties were encountered by the States while preparing their plans or implementing the components in the districts as per the guidelines, The General Council expressed its satisfaction that the guidelines were clear and fairly detailed that helped the states in quick implementation of

the Scheme. The General council accorded ex-post facto approval to the guidelines.

- 5.2 National Food Security Mission General Council (NFSMGC):** The Mission Director informed that as per para 16 of CCEA note and para 4-A of Operational Guidelines, the General Council (GC) was constituted under the chairmanship of the Union Agriculture Minister, as a policymaking body to provide suitable directives and guidance to the Mission and for reviewing the overall progress and development of the scheme. The General Council approved the constitution of the General Council.
- 5.3 National Food Security Mission Executive Council (NFSMEC):** The Mission Director stated that as per para 17 of CCEA note and para 4.2 of the Operational Guidelines, a National Food Security Mission Executive Committee (NFSMEC) was constituted under the chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation to steer the smooth conduct of the Mission and to consider and approve the State Action plans. The General Council approved the constitution of the Executive Council.
- 5.4 Seed Committee of NFSM:** The order of the seed committee Constituted under the chairmanship of Agriculture Commissioner, as per para **14.2.1(ii)** of Operational Guidelines, to decide on the programme for production and distribution of seeds and distribution of seed minikits of rice and wheat in consultation with the ICAR and States was placed before the General Council. The General Council expressed its satisfaction over the proactive role played by the Seed Committee in ensuring timely release of adequate quantity and varieties of seeds to the Mission districts during the Rabi season. The committee desired that advance seed planning should also be done for the coming Kharif season. The constitution of the Seed Committee of NFSM was approved.
- 5.5 National Level Monitoring Team (NLMT):** Council members welcomed the constitution of the National Level Monitoring Committee, constituted as per the para 8.5 of guidelines under the Chairmanship of Mission Director. Council hoped that the regular visits of the NLMT members to the NFSM States and districts to monitor the progress of implementation of interventions, interaction with the beneficiaries and the implementing agencies and their feedback would immensely benefit and improve the implementation of the scheme. Constitution of the National Level Monitoring Team was approved.
- 5.6 Central Seed Price Committee:** Constitution of the Central Seed Price Committee under the chairmanship of the Agriculture Commissioner was approved. This committee essentially fixes the price of the seed minikits.
- 5.7 Technical Support Group (TSG):** While according approval to the constitution of the Technical Support Group, the council hoped that TSG would help states in propagating the SRI technique through clear cut technical guidelines for selection of the fields for the demonstrations and for developing the curriculum for conducting the Farmers' Field Schools.

- 5.8 Provision of Pump sets to all States under NFSM-Wheat:** General Council observed that modification to para 14.5(ii) of guidelines regarding extending provision of pump sets to all the States apart from the originally specified states of Bihar, eastern U.P, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal was required based on the demands received from the States and the available potential there. Approval was accorded to extend the intervention relating to pump sets to all the States selected under NFSM-Wheat which were not categorised under dark or brown zone of ground water as specified by the Central Water Commission.
- 5.9 Clarification regarding Operation of ISOPOM in NFSM Pulses areas:** The Mission Director stated that in order to avoid ambiguity about the simultaneous operation of ISOPOM in NFSM Pulses areas, a clarification was issued to the provision specified in para 13.2 (ii) of guidelines with the concurrence of Union Agriculture Minister. He added that as per the clarification, NFSM would cover the planned additional pulses areas of a district and ISOPOM would continue to be available for the remaining pulses area in the same district. Ex-post facto approval was accorded to the modification specified in para **13.2 (ii)**.
- 5.10 Replacement/ Addition of States/Districts:** Mission Director explained that the requests from the states for the replacement and addition were scrutinized based on the criteria adopted for the selection of the districts. Accordingly with the approval of Chairman, Chitrakoot, Lalitpur, Mahoba and Mirzapur of U.P were replaced with Barabanki, Mathura, Kushinagar and Mainpuri districts; 3 additional wheat districts of Taran Taran, Barnala and Mohali were added to the list of NFSM-wheat districts as a result of bifurcation of Rupnagar, Amritsar and Sangrur NFSM -Wheat Districts; Palakkad district of Kerala and Panchamahar and Dohad districts of Gujarat were added to the list of NFSM rice districts, based on their eligibility. Modification to the list of NFSM Rice districts Annexure II (a) and to the list of NFSM Wheat districts Annexure II (b) was made accordingly. The General Council accorded approval to the changes made.
- 5.11 Increased allocation of Wheat Seed Minikits:** The Mission Director informed that due to the increase in demand from the States and considering the flood situation in Bihar, with the approval of Union Agriculture Minister 30,239 quintals of seeds through minikits were allocated to the States instead of the initial allocation of 13000 quintals. The General Council accorded ex-post facto approval to the increased allocation of wheat seed minikits.
- 5.12 Approval of Technical guidelines issued under NFSM Publicity:** Joint Secretary (extension) informed that a set of technical guidelines were issued to the states for the effective utilization of publicity funds provided under NFSM. The General Council expressed satisfaction over the issue of guidelines and approved the same.

**6. For New Approvals:**

New proposals for seeking approvals from the General Council were taken up one by one for consideration of the Council.

**6.1 Enhancement of Capacity of Pump sets from 5 H.P to 10 H.P:** Initiating the discussion, the Mission Director informed that the enhancement was necessary in the background of depleting aquifers in the states; dual utility of the pumpsets to farmers for water lifting as well as for thrashing; the higher suction capacity discharge and overhead distance of 10 H.P in comparison to 5 H.P pumpsets. The Mission Director also informed that the State Governments agreed to limit the subsidy amount to Rs 10,000/ machine as prescribed under the guidelines. After discussions, General Council approved the proposal, as it would not have any extra financial implications on the budget proposed.

Accordingly, **Para 14.5.i** of the guidelines would be modified as follows:

Original para14.5.i	Modified para 14.5.i
An assistance of 50% of the cost of the pumpsets or Rs 10,000/per pumpset of 5 H.P per farmer, which ever is less, would be provided under the programme. These pumps must be as prescribed under IS 10804 (1994) standard. The pumpsets may be diesel or electrical operated.	An assistance of 50% of the cost of the pumpsets or Rs 10,000/per pumpset of up to <b>10 H.P</b> per farmer, which ever is less, would be provided under the programme. These pumps must be as prescribed under IS 10804 (1994) standard. The pumpsets may be diesel or electrical operated.

**6.2 Inclusion of non NFSM Districts for Hybrid Rice Production:** The Agriculture Commissioner informed that owing to the difficulties in setting of seed due to non-synchrony in flowering of male and female flowers, the hybrid rice seed production is localised to few districts of states like A.P, Karnataka, and Tamilnadu, most of which happen to be non-NFSM districts. In this background, the General Council examined the proposal for extending the Production subsidy to non-NFSM districts for hybrid seed production and also sourcing of suitable varieties of Hybrid seeds produced any where in the country for distribution in the NFSM Districts. Keeping in view the importance of hybrid rice production in achieving the estimated targets, the General Council considered the proposal and accorded its approval.

Accordingly, **para 14.2.2.ii** of the guidelines would be modified as follows:

Original para 14.2.2.ii	Modified para 14.2.2.ii
Assistance of Rs .1000 per quintal of hybrid seed produced will be provided to seed producing agencies including private seed producing companies for the certified seeds.	Assistance of Rs .1000 per quintal of hybrid seed produced will be provided to seed producing agencies including private seed producing companies <b>located in both NFSM/ non NFSM districts</b> for the certified seeds to be used in the NFSM-Rice districts.

**6.3 Increase in size of seed minikit of Wheat from 5 kg to 10 kg:** The Mission Director informed that originally 5 kg minikits of **Wheat** were provided under NFSM and States had been demanding increase in seed minikit size to 10 kg, as a minimum quantity of 10 kg seed would be required for covering at least 0.1 ha of area under **Wheat** to get a visible impact of the demonstration carried out. Council considered increasing the size of the seed minikit of wheat from 5 kgs to 10 kgs (**Para 14.2.5.iii**) and approved the proposal.

Accordingly, Para 14.2.5.iii would be modified as follows:

Original para14.2.5.iii	Modified para 14.2.5.iii
Minikits are meant for introduction and popularisation of latest released/pre released varieties and their propagation among the farmers. Each minikit will be of 5 kg. Size.	Minikits are meant for introduction and popularisation of latest released/pre released varieties and their propagation among the farmers. <b>Each minikit of Wheat will be of 10 kg. Size.</b> However, size of <b>Rice minikits will remain 5 kg each.</b>

**6.4 Farmers Field School under Extension/Training component & Miscellaneous Expenditure of NFSM pulses: FFS Under Extension:**

The Mission Director informed that details of activities that could be taken up under NFSM extension/ training were not specified in the guidelines, which had led to some ambiguity in the field and hence it was felt necessary to specify interventions under extension training component. Accordingly, the detailed proposal containing the needed break up was prepared for better execution and monitoring of extension activities under NFSM pulses.

The Mission Director also presented to the Council the detailed break up of the miscellaneous expenditure under NFSM Pulses as the same was not specified in the guidelines earlier. He opined that the break-up of the miscellaneous expenditure was required for better monitoring of the mission activities.

After discussions regarding detailed extension and miscellaneous expenditure under NFSM Pulses, the General Council approved the proposal.

Accordingly, modification would be done to the pattern of assistance column of **5a and 8 of Annexure- III (c)** of the guidelines which would be specifying the extension, training and miscellaneous expenses covered under NFSM Pulses.

S.No	Original "pattern of Assistance" column of Annexure- III C	Modified "pattern of Assistance" column of Annexure- III C
5a	Full cost (lump sum grant of Rs 50 lakh/state/year for extension,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Infrastructure development for training on pulses at Indian Institute Pulses Research (ICAR) Kanpur including imparting training to trainers/farmers -Rs 1.0 crore per year.</li> <li>Farmers training on the pattern of Farmers Field</li> </ul>

S.No	Original "pattern of Assistance" column of Annexure- III C	Modified "pattern of Assistance" column of Annexure- III C
	training and mass media campaign; Rs 1 lakh/ training for 50 farmers.	<p>School @ Rs 17000/ha –one training of 30 farmers for entire crop season at every 250 ha additional area created under pulses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State level training for trainers and extension workers 50 participants for two days @ Rs. 1.0 lakh per training.</li> <li>• Awards for best performing districts of the State once in two years -Rs 5.0 lakh.</li> </ul>
8	Full cost limited Rs 5.0 lakh per district per year	<p><b>National Level:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two Consultant on contract basis- Rs. 35, 000/- per month honorarium</li> <li>• National level monitoring on contract basis - Rs. 25.0 lakh per year honorarium</li> <li>• National level contingency- Rs 55 lakh for the year 2008-09</li> <li>• Evaluation- Rs. 25 lakh per year from (2008-09 onward</li> </ul> <p><b>State Level:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One consultant on contract basis- Rs 20000/- p.m. honorarium</li> <li>Two technical assistants on contract basis- Rs. 12000/- p.m. honorarium</li> <li>• Contingency for miscellaneous expenses including hiring of vehicle, POL, etc- Rs. 1.0 lakh per year</li> </ul> <p><b>District level:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One consultant on contract basis- Rs 15000 p.m. honorarium</li> <li>• Two technical assistants on contract basis - Rs 8000/- p.m. honorarium</li> <li>• Contingency for miscellaneous expenses including hiring of vehicle, POL- Rs 75000/- per year.</li> </ul>

**6.5 Relaxation of seed norms for seed supplied under Demonstrations, Seed Mini kits and Retail Distribution:** The proposal for relaxation of seed norms for seed supplied under demonstration para 14.1(vii), seed minikits para 14.2.5 (vii) and retail distribution 14.2.4 (i) and 14.2.7 (i) was presented before the General Council. Mission Director stated that a large number of demonstrations, big component of seed distribution and seed minikits were

planned under the mission. He explained that the seed production and supply of seeds to the farmers in the seed chain would take comparatively longer time i.e. 2-3 years. He informed the General Council that the prescribed seed norms of 5 and 10 years needs to be relaxed as the general seed replacement rates in the NFSM Districts were abysmally low and the farmers would greatly benefit if the ruling recommended variety irrespective of the age is allowed to be promoted. Council opined that States would have to simultaneously make plans to introduce better and latest varieties in the interim so as to give the best quality of seeds when the next replacement becomes due after three years.

The Secretary, DARE and DG ICAR observed that relaxation in age norms for seed distribution from 10 years to 15 years; for seed minikits and demonstrations from 5 years to 10 years should only be considered for one year and could be reviewed on case by case basis in subsequent years.

General Council considered the proposal and accorded its approval to the same for a period of one year till March 2009.

- 6.6 Additional NFSM-Pulses Districts in Punjab:** The proposal for inclusion of newly created districts of Taran Taran and Barnala, which were carved out of NFSM pulses districts of Amritsar and Sangrur was presented before General Council. Since, the bifurcation was an administrative arrangement made by the State Government, which would not alter the originally selected areas, the General Council agreed for the inclusion of newly created Taran Taran and Barnala under NFSM Pulses. Accordingly, modification will be made to the list of NFSM pulses districts placed at annexure: (Annexure II (c)).

Original districts included under NFSM pulses in Punjab	Present districts under NFSM Pulses after addition of districts
Ludhiana Sangrur Ferozpur Gurdaspur Amritsar	Ludhiana Sangrur Ferozpur Gurdaspur Amritsar <b>Taran Taran</b> <b>Barnala</b>
<b>Total 5 districts</b>	<b>Total 7 districts</b>

- 6.7 Empowering SFSMEC for inter componental change up to 20% of state allocation:** The Mission Director informed that as Mission has a focused approach, in general total rigidity and uniformity in the pattern of assistance was maintained for the interventions specified under different crops through out the country during the Rabi season. He further added that it was felt that each state was responding differently to the choice of components and resorting to frequent change of the plan due to specific local needs and due to unforeseen problems especially in the procurement of planned inputs and farm machinery. Inter component changes can be made only with the approval of the General Council. Since some of the local issues warrant some inter component changes quickly so as to respond adequately in the ongoing crop season, it would be desirable that the States were delegated some authority in this regard. Considering the location specific needs and the unforeseen circumstances during the implementation of the scheme, the General Council approved the



proposal for empowering SFSMEC to make inter componental changes to the extent of 20 % of the total allocation. Accordingly, a separate paragraph would be added to **para 12** (procedure for approval and implementation) as mentioned below:

Original provision under Para 12	Modified provision under Para 12
<p>12.1 The Department of Agriculture &amp; Cooperation, Government of India would communicate the tentative annual outlay to each State, which in turn will indicate component-wise district-wise allocation. The agencies at the district level will prepare the annual action plan keeping in view their priority and potential and submit the plan to the State Level Agency. The States concerned will be required to prepare a State Action Plan based on the District Action Plans for the XI Plan. States could engage the Project Management Team or alternatively, outsource to technical consultants for preparing the Annual Action Plans and State Food Security Mission Document. The State Level Agency will get the State Action Plan vetted by the State Food Security Mission Executive Committee and furnish the same to Ministry of Agriculture for consideration by the NFSMEC.</p>	<p>12.1 The Department of Agriculture &amp; Cooperation, Government of India would communicate the tentative annual outlay to each State, which in turn will indicate component-wise district-wise allocation. The agencies at the district level will prepare the annual action plan keeping in view their priority and potential and submit the plan to the State Level Agency. The States concerned will be required to prepare a State Action Plan based on the District Action Plans for the XI Plan. States could engage the Project Management Team or alternatively, outsource to technical consultants for preparing the Annual Action Plans and State Food Security Mission Document. The State Level Agency will get the State Action Plan vetted by the State Food Security Mission Executive Committee and furnish the same to Ministry of Agriculture for consideration by the NFSMEC</p> <p><b>12.2 SFSMEC is empowered to make inter-componental changes to the extent of 20 % of the total allocation based on the local needs.</b></p>

7. Other salient points that emerged during the discussions are as follows:

7.1 The Chairman expressed concern regarding low seed production of pulses and emphasized the involvement of State Agriculture Universities, ICAR Institutes and KVKs in the Pulses seed production. Responding, Secretary DARE and DG ICAR stated that ICAR and SAUs could take up breeder seed production based on specific indents/ demands received. **(action : States, ICAR)**

7.2 Additional Secretary (SLB) raised the issue of non-availability of parental lines of Hybrids of rice for seed production. DG ICAR informed that ICAR could provide required quantity of parental lines for hybrid rice seed production to the States based on specific indents forwarded by the States. **(Action: States, ICAR)**