

**No. CPS 7-13/2008-NFSM**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Agriculture**  
**Department of Agriculture & Cooperation**  
**NFSM Cell**

**Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.**

**Dated: the 13<sup>th</sup> Jan., 2009**

**Subject:** Minutes of the Second Meeting of General Council (GC) of NFSM held on 16.12.2008 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (A&C) in the absence of Hon'ble AM at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi – regarding.

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The undersigned is directed to enclose herewith a copy of the Minutes of the Second Meeting of General Council (GC) of NFSM held on 16.12.2008 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (A&C) in the absence of Hon'ble AM at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi for information and necessary action.

**Encl: As above.**



**(A. Neeraja)**  
**Director (Crops)**

**Distribution:**

1. Secretary (A&C), 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. Dr. N. B. Singh, Agriculture Commissioner, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. Adviser (Agriculture), Planning Commission, Yojna Bhawan, New Delhi.	6. Mission Director (NFSM), Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
7. Dr. S. M. Jharwal, Principal Adviser, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.	8. Dr. P. L. Gautam, DDG (CS), ICAR, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
9. Dr. Vandana Dwivedi, Joint Adviser (Agriculture), Planning Commission, Yojna Bhawan, New Delhi	10. Shri N.K. Das, Additional Secretary, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
11. Shri G.C. Pati, Additional Secretary, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.	12. Shri P.K. Basu, Additional Secretary, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.

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13. Shri A.S. Lamba, Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.	14. Shri Sanjeev Gupta, Joint Secretary (INM), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
15. Shri Rajendra Kumar Tiwari, Joint Secretary (Ext), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.	16. Ms. Upma Chowdhry, Joint Secretary (Seeds), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
17. Shri R.C. Ray, Economic & Statistical Adviser, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.	18. Shri Y.R. Meena, Additional Commissioner (Extn), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
19. Shri A.N. Meshram, Deputy Commissioner (M&T), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.	20. Shri M. Moni, Deputy Director General (NIC), CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.
21. Dr. Prabhat Kumar, Country Director, ICRISAT, NASC Complex, Pusa New Delhi.	22. Dr. Masood Ali, Project Director, Indian Institute of Pulses Research (IIPR), ICAR, Kalyanpur, Kanpur.
23. Brig S.P. Mehta, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, SFCI, Farm Bhawan, 14-15, Nehru Place, New Delhi.	24. Shri Bijay Kumar, Managing Director, National Horticulture Board (NHB), Gurgaon.
25. Dr. S.N. Shukla, ADG (FFC), ICAR, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.	26. Dr. N. D. Jambhale, ADG (Seed), ICAR, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.

**Copy also to:**

1. PS to Hon'ble Agriculture Minister.
2. Ms. A. Neeraja, Director (Crops), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. Dr. J.P. Mishra, Deputy Commissioner (NFSM), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. Dr. G. K. Choudhury, Director (Wheat), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. Dr. R.S. Saini, National Consultant (NFSM), Beej Bhawan, NSC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi.
6. Dr. D.N. Singh, National Consultant (NFSM), Beej Bhawan, NSC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi.
7. Dr. Shanker Lal, National Consultant (NFSM), Beej Bhawan, NSC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi.
8. Dr. R.K. Gupta, National Consultant (NFSM), Beej Bhawan, NSC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi.
9. Shri R.N. Verma, Assistant Commissioner (Crops), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
10. Shri S.R. Kachru, Assistant Director (Crops), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.

**Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the General Council of the National Food Security Mission held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2008 in CR 142, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi**

1. Second meeting of the General Council (GC) of the National Food Security Mission was held on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2008. It was chaired by Secretary (A&C) due to sudden pre occupation of Union Agriculture Minister in the ongoing session of the Parliament. List of the participants is presented at **Annexure-I**. Agenda items were taken up one by one.
2. **Agenda 1:** Minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed as there were no amendments suggested by any member. Compliance report on the action points from the previous meeting was also accepted by the Council.
3. **Agenda 2: Status review of the Mission:** A presentation was made by the Joint Secretary (Crops) and National Mission Director reviewing the performance of the mission activities. He informed the General Council that the Mission achieved the production targets of the three crops set for the year 2007-08. He presented the inter district variations in the productivity levels reported by NFSM districts in different States stating that there was considerable scope for further improvements while addressing the specific issues of the low performing districts. He informed that the implementation process was stream lined with a series of timely changes in the operational guidelines aimed at better coverage, rationalization of subsidy administration and removal of ambiguity and duplication in relation to other schemes. Finally, he said that the Mission was looking to consolidate the initial gains by seeking active participation of different institutions within and across the Ministries. He concluded that convergence of efforts of different institutions would help in overcoming multiple deficiencies, especially on infrastructure and socio economic indicators, the defining features of the Mission Districts.

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It was decided to have a thorough evaluation of sample NFSM Wheat districts which were showing sharp increase/ decrease in productivity compared to pre-NFSM period to diagnose the underlying causes so that appropriate corrective measures could be planned accordingly. It was also decided that moving average of last 3 years should be used for assessing the productivity levels so as to normalize the climatic factors for any instances of unusually high or low figures. **(Action: NFSM Cell)**

**4. Agenda 3: Post facto Approvals:** Thereafter, agenda items on **Post facto approvals** were taken up for the consideration of the General Council:

- Revisions in the Operational Guidelines concerning the following paras

<b>Paras revised / New Paras included</b>	<b>Subject</b>
11.3, 11.6, 14.2.3 (iv), 14.2.4 (ii), 14.2.9 (v),	Distribution mechanism for subsidy of HYVs/hybrid rice seeds.
14.4.1, 14.4.2, 14.4.3 (i-v), 14.4.4, 14.5(i-iv), 14.6 (i-iv), Annexure - IIIA, IIIB	Inclusion of machinery under Rice, wheat, and pulses components of NFSM.
14.3 (iii), 14.3.1(i), 14.3.1 (i-a), 14.3.3 (i), 14.3.4 (i), Annexure-IIIC	Flexibility to state to rationalize the assistance for micro-nutrients and Gypsum within Rs 1000/ hac in NFSM-Wheat/Pulses.
13.2	Implementation of NFSM pulses in entire area of Identified district
Annexure - III (C) 5a	Break-up of Rs. 1.00 lakh provided for extension related activities under NFSM-Pulses into different sub-heads

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- Relaxation of Age limit of HYVs/Hybrids for distribution, seed minikits, demonstrations for 2008-09
- Inclusion of new district of Pratapgarh of Rajasthan under NFSM pulses
- Increased allotment of seed minikits to M.P and flood affected areas of Bihar

GC considered the issues listed above and after discussions accorded its ex post facto approval to all the items.

**5. Agenda 4: New Approvals:** There after, the issues for new approvals were discussed by GC and the following decisions were taken on the proposals submitted:

- **Relaxation of age limit for HYV/ Hybrid seeds to be used for distribution, minikits and demonstrations:** After a detailed discussion on the agenda item, it was decided that considering the inadequate availability of the eligible varieties and their relatively low current demand from the farmers, the relaxation of the age limit was necessary to meet the seed replacement rate targeted under the mission. The proposal as given in the agenda notes was approved for the year 2009-10 on the case to case basis to be determined by the Central Seeds Committee of the Mission constituted under the Agriculture Commissioner. ICAR should be actively involved in this exercise of promoting the varieties beginning from the latest varieties downwards to the relaxed limit as per their available quantity. A seed rolling production plan should be drawn up by the respective State Seed Producing Agencies to increase the supply of the latest varieties recommended to be promoted. KVKs should be involved to test the varieties not being demanded by farmers for different reasons so that a scientific feed back mechanism was established on the performance of latest varieties as compared to the popular varieties.

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It was further decided to empower the National Food Security Mission Executive Committee to make any suitable changes with respect to the criteria relating to the age of the seeds for promotion under the Seed Minikits, demonstrations and distribution after reviewing the seed availability and the production status with respect to the latest varieties while approving the Annual Action Plans of the States. **(Action: NFSM Cell)**

- **Enabling the Price Committee to decide the cost of seed minikits of rice and wheat every year in proportionate to increase in MSP , after taking the farm gate price, transport cost into consideration :** The proposal was approved in principle. Central Seed Price Committee should take the views of IFD to devise a suitable formula for such an increase/decrease in minikit price. **(Action: NFSM Cell, Central Seed Price Committee)**
- **Increase in allocation of funds to ICRISAT:** After a detailed discussion, the proposal for increase in allocation of ICRISAT to Rs 20 Crores from Rs 10 Crores for implementation of pilot projects on increasing the productivity of pulses and for increase in the pulses area especially in the Rainfed rice fallow lands was approved. It was decided to place the details of the ICRISAT pilot projects on the NFSM web site. **(Action: NFSM cell, ICRISAT)**
- **Allocation of funds for Hybrid rice minikits:** Proposal for allocation of nearly Rs 10.17 crores to promote Hybrid rice minikits was approved. General Council noted with concern negligible share of public bred hybrids in the total market of the hybrid rice. The importance of indenting the breeder seeds in time and implementation of seed plans for production of required quantities of hybrid seeds was stressed for meeting the

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targeted requirement of 4.5 lakh quintals of Hybrid rice seeds by 2010-11. **(Action: NFSM Cell, States, Seed Division)**

**6. Agenda 5: Strategy for Hybrid Rice promotion: Presentation on Constraints and opportunities in hybrid rice production and strategies for promotion of hybrid rice:** The potential of eastern states of the country for hybrid rice cultivation was emphasized. The need for devising definite strategies to compete with the private sector for popularizing the public bred hybrids was highlighted. It was decided that with the approval of the hybrid seed minikits program along with the other programs such as demonstrations under Hybrid rice and SRI, the envisaged coverage of 3 million hectares would be possible especially in the Eastern region of the Country. Regular monitoring of the area coverage should be done by the NFSM Cell. **(Action : NFSM Cell)**

**7. Agenda 6: Strategy for pulses area expansion and for increasing Pulses' seed production :**

- **Presentation on Strategies for area expansion through chick pea in rice fallows and productivity enhancement through hybrids of pigeon pea by ICRISAT:** The pilot projects on promotion of pigeon pea hybrids and on area expansion of pulses in the rainfed rice fallow lands through chick pea were showing good initial results. These projects were stated to be on course to achieve their projected production levels. Cultivation of lentil in rice fallows apart from Chickpea was suggested as it was more drought tolerant and suited to warm conditions. It was noted that such types of pilot projects should also be considered by IIPR for other hybrids and varieties developed by ICAR system to cover more area to develop more options in strategies for adoption during the course of the Mission period. Finally, it was

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decided that the State Governments of MP, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, and West Bengal should be actively associated to replicate the successful outcomes of the pilot projects under the regular allocation of the NFSM Pulses to the other similar area for increasing the coverage and the number of farmers. An action plan in this regard should be prepared by the NFSM cell in association with ICRISAT and IIPR (**Action: ICRISAT, IIPR, NFSM Cell, States**)

- **Presentation on Breeder Seed production of Pulses and capacity building by IIPR** : Director, IIPR apprised the progress of work done by IIPR for increased breeder seed production of pulses and capacity building of the state extension officials under NFSM Pulses. He pointed out the low turnout of state agriculture field functionaries in the training programmes arranged by IIPR. It was decided to advise states to ensure proper participation of field functionaries in the training programmes. It was decided that the Directorate of Pulses Development , Bhopal should actively liaise with the State Seed producing agencies to indent and lift the breeder seeds being produced by IIPR. This aspect should be closely monitored by NFSM Cell to ensure additional availability of certified pulses seeds to the farmers. (**Action: IIPR, NFSM Cell, States, DPD, Bhopal** )

8. **Agenda 7: The new NFSM web portal:** The new web portal of NFSM [www.nfsm.gov.in](http://www.nfsm.gov.in) was launched by Secretary (A&C).The detailed features of the new NFSM web portal were presented by Dr. Moni, DDG, NIC. The importance of evolving a proper mechanism involving KVKs, grass root functionaries of State Agriculture Departments for making available the digital data at the farmers' level were

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emphasized. It was decided to operationalize the six selected pilot districts with all the envisaged features including the dynamically linked web sites of these districts, direct reporting of the progress of implementation and if possible integration with the banking system.  
**(Action: NIC, NFSM Cell, State Mission Directors concerned)**

- 9. Agenda 8 : NFSM Publicity -progress review & Development of Theme area of NFSM for IITF; audio video publicity :** The progress of Publicity work including the development of NFSM Theme area for Krishi Pavillion of the Ministry of Agriculture in the IITF 2008 and audio video publicity was presented. General Council noted with satisfaction the efforts in promoting the awareness about the various activities of the Mission among the stakeholders. Three prizes were awarded for best display and content of the exhibits in the Krishi Pavilion by Secretary (A&C) to Shri Arijit Gupta, Art Director , EDUCOMP(AIDS) INDIA and Director, NFSM Cell of the Department for the pantomime show on NFSM activities, CMD, Central Warehousing Corporation, New Delhi for imaginative promotion of messages relating to proper storage of food grains, and MD, National Horticulture Board for beautiful display of floral arrangements in the theme area. A brochure on NFSM and a number of posters prepared on the basis of NFSM theme display in IITF were released as the publicity material of NFSM by the Secretary (A&C) for use by the States and the Districts in their publicity campaign. A model of the Logo of NFSM was presented to the Secretary (A&C) for display in his office by Additional Secretary (NKD).
- 10.** Secretary (A&C) in his concluding remarks expressed satisfaction that the Mission was measuring upto the needs of the Farmers in the target districts. He said that the task of reaching out to the farmers was challenging considering that districts were relatively backward having a number of constraints particularly on poverty and poorly

developed marketing infrastructure. Despite these odds, performance of the Mission in achieving its annual production target was credit worthy. He stressed the need for stepping up the performance in the coming year too by better planning and implementation of all its components. Finally, he felt that only through collaborative working of different schemes and programs of Agriculture Department and other Ministries various deficits of the target districts could be overcome for sustaining the initial momentum.

11. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

**List of Participants in the Second Meeting of General Council (GC) of NFSM held on 16.12.2008 under the Chairmanship of Secretary (A&C) in the absence of Hon'ble AM at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.**

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**A. Members of General Council:**

1. Shri T. Nand Kumar, Secretary (A&C), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Dr. Vandana Dwivedi, Joint Adviser (Agriculture), Planning Commission, Yojana Bhawan, New Delhi- **For Adviser (Agriculture).**
3. Dr. P. L. Gautam, DDG (CS), ICAR, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi- **For Secretary (DARE) & DG, ICAR.**

**B. Department of Agriculture & Cooperation:**

4. Dr. S.M. Jharwal, Principal Adviser, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. Shri N.K. Das, Additional Secretary, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
6. Shri G.C. Pati, Additional Secretary, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
7. Shri P.K. Basu, Additional Secretary, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
8. Shri A.S. Lamba, Additional Secretary & Financial Adviser, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
9. Shri Mukesh Khullar, Joint Secretary (Crops) & National Mission Director (NFSM), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
10. Shri Sanjeev Gupta, Joint Secretary (INM), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
11. Shri Rajendra Kumar Tiwari, Joint Secretary (Ext), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
12. Ms. Upma Chowdhry, Joint Secretary (Seeds), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
13. Shri R.C. Ray, Economic & Statistical Adviser, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
14. Ms. A. Neeraja, Director (Crops), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
15. Dr. J.P. Mishra, Deputy Commissioner (NFSM), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
16. Dr. G. K. Choudhury, Director (Wheat), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
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18. Dr. D.N. Singh, National Consultant (NFSM), Beej Bhawan, NSC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi.
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23. Shri R.N. Verma, Assistant Commissioner (Crops), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
24. Shri S.R. Kachru, Assistant Director (Crops), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
25. Shri Ashok Kumar Singh, STA (Crops), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.

C. Others:

26. Shri M. Moni, Deputy Director General (NIC), CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi.
27. Ms. V. Rajeshwari, Senior Technical Director, NIC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
28. Dr. Prabhat Kumar, Country Director, ICRISAT, NASC Complex, Pusa New Delhi.
29. Shri K.B. Saxena, ICRISAT, NASC Complex, Pusa New Delhi.
30. Dr. Suresh Pande, ICRISAT, Pataneleni, A.P.
31. Dr. Masood Ali, Project Director, Indian Institute of Pulses Research (IIPR), ICAR, 32. Kalyanpur, Kanpur.
32. Dr. Sanjeev Gupta, Principal Scientist, Indian Institute of Pulses Research (IIPR), ICAR, Kalyanpur, Kanpur.
33. Dr. B.B. Singh, Project Coordinator, Indian Institute of Pulses Research (IIPR), ICAR, Kalyanpur, Kanpur.
34. Brig S.P. Mehta, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, SFCI, Farm Bhawan, 14-15, Nehru Place, New Delhi.
35. Shri Ram Prakash, Chief Agriculture, SFCI, Farm Bhawan, 14-15, Nehru Place, New Delhi.
36. Shri Kuldeep Singh, Chief Marketing Manager, SFCI, Farm Bhawan, 14-15, Nehru Place, New Delhi.
37. Shri Bijay Kumar, Managing Director, National Horticulture Board (NHB), Gurgaon.
38. Dr. K.C. Tomar, DE, National Horticulture Board (NHB), Gurgaon.
39. Dr. S.N. Shukla, ADG (FFC), ICAR, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
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