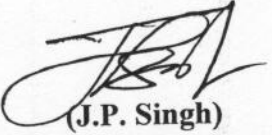


**F.No. CPS 1-7/2011-NFSM (NCAER)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Agriculture  
Department of agriculture & Cooperation  
(NFSM Cell)**

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi  
Dated 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2012

**Subject: Thirteenth Monthly Briefing under NCAER Project on "Outlook and Situation Analysis for Food Security"– Meeting Notice.**

The undersigned is directed to enclose herewith a copy of the minutes of Thirteenth Monthly Briefing of NCAER Project on "Agricultural Outlook and Situation Analysis for Food Security" held on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2012 in Acharya Jagdish Chandra Bose Hall, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Secretary (A&C) for information and necessary action.

  
(J.P. Singh)  
Director(Millets)

**Distribution:** As per list appended with the minutes.

**Copy to:** Sr. PPS to Secretary (A&C).

**Summary record of the Thirteenth Monthly Briefing meeting under NCAER Project on Outlook and Situation Analysis for food security held on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2012.**

Thirteenth monthly briefing under NCAER Project on "Outlook and Situation Analysis for Food Security" was held at 4.30 pm on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2012, in Committee Room No. 142, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi. List of participants is attached.

Presentations on the Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS) and Price Tool Developed at Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) by Dr. Liliana Balbi, Senior Economist, and Dr. Paul Racionzer, Agricultural Economist were on the agenda.

Dr. Ashok Gulati, Chairman, Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices welcomed the participants and said that this is a part of the series of meetings held periodically to discuss important issues related to the project and to learn from the experience of international agencies such as FAO, USDA, IGC etc. who have considerable working experience on the subject. He then invited FAO representatives to make their presentation.

Dr. Paul Racionzer made the presentation on the Global Information and Early Warning System (GIEWS). He noted that GIEWS was established in the early 1970's with the mandate to keep the world food supply/demand situation under continuous watch, issue reports on the world food situation and provide early warnings of problems relating to food availability in individual countries. Towards achieving its goals GIEWS compiles and analyses information at global level on production, utilization, stocks, trade and food aid. This includes information on input availability, planted areas, pests and diseases, government policies, meteorological data and on crop condition.

Dr. Racionzer said GIEWS is in the process of developing Agricultural Stress Index (ASI) with the objective of strengthening crop and vegetation monitoring activity for early warning on agricultural areas that are likely to be affected by drought in current season. ASI will run automatically at global level using METOP remote sensing imagery at 1 km resolution and will integrate temporal and spatial aggregation of NDVI in agricultural areas. It will show global quick look maps (every 10-day) showing hot spots, i.e., agricultural areas probably affected by drought.

GIEWS has become the leading source of information on food production and food security for all countries in the world – FAO members and non-members. It is a worldwide network with 119 governments, other UN agencies and countless NGOs, trade, research and media organizations.

Dr. Liliana Balbi made her presentation on Food Price Data and Analysis Tool. She said it was created as part of the FAO Initiative on Soaring Food Prices (ISFP) in 2009 in the wake of soaring international food prices in 2007-08 which affected consumption of low income population in many developing countries. The Food Price Data and Analysis Tool was developed with the financial assistance of the Government of Spain to assist developing countries in the monitoring of supply and demand of food commodities & in the analysis of food price trends.

Under this initiative information is collected on monthly retail and wholesale prices for staple food commodities (cereals, vegetable oils, meat products etc.) and for selected markets in 82 countries. It is easy to browse, using this tool, for prices and related variables on commodity, country, geographic region or economic groups with interactive maps and one-click chart view.

Dr. Balbi demonstrated that under this tool, customized charts with local units of measurement, kilograms or metric tonnes can also be seen and saved for different market seasons/time periods and in terms of national currencies and/or US dollars.

The tool is further being refined with additional statistical calculations/features including ESA's Price Monitoring Model and for Bulk data download with embedded chart features.

FAO further plans to add more countries and member countries would be able to adapt GIEWS price tool at national level to improve monitoring and analysis on food security.

A number of clarificatory questions were raised on the nature of data available. Regarding source of data for India Dr. Balbi said it is being taken from the Department of Consumer Affairs Website. Mr. Hussain pointed to the limitations of data available but appreciated the usefulness of the price tool. On coverage of horticulture crops Dr. Balbi said so far these are not covered but the list is being expanded. She clarified that there was no information on support prices at this juncture. She said developing countries do have official systems in place for collection of daily wholesale and retail prices for food commodities, which may be brought under the price tool with suitable processing.

On the issue raised by Dr. Gulati, whether the price tool provides a forecast of prices also, Dr. Balbi indicated that there were no forecasts but there was work on providing projections of prices based on historical experience for the commodity prices.

Regarding Mr. Khullar's question, whether this tool can be used for state level analysis also, Dr. Balbi agreed that it would be possible to do so because already prices are available for different markets within the country.

Dr. Gulati thanked Dr. Liliana Balbi and Dr. Paul Racionzer and the meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

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**List of participants of the Thirteenth Monthly Briefing under NCAER Project held on 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2012 at 4.30 PM in Acharya Jagdish Chandra Bose Hall, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi .**

1. Sh. Siraj Hussain, Addl. Secretary, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
2. Sh. Raghav Chandra, Addl. Secretary Financial Advisor, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. Sh. Balvinder Kumar, Addl. Secretary, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
4. Sh. Mukesh Khullar, Joint Secretary (Crops), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
5. Sh. Sanjeev Chopra, Joint Secretary (NHM), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
6. Prof. Ramesh Chand, Director, NCAP, Pusa Complex, New Delhi-12.
7. Dr. Anandi Subramanian, Member Secretary, CACP, K.B. New Delhi
8. Mr. M. C. Singhi, Senior Adviser, DEA, M/O Finance, North Block.
9. Sh. B.S. Bhandari, Advisor, DES, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
10. Ms. Reena Saha, Director (Crops), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
11. Sh. Sushil Kumar Singla, Director , Room No. 189, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi (e-mail: [sushilsingla77@yahoo.co.in](mailto:sushilsingla77@yahoo.co.in)).
12. Sh. S. Bhide, Sr. Consultatn, Parishila Bhawan, I. P. Estate, New Delhi. (e-mail: [s.bhide@ncaer.org](mailto:s.bhide@ncaer.org)).
13. Sh. S.K. Mondal, Consultant, NCAER, Parishila Bhawan, I. P. Estate, New Delhi.
14. Sh. V.P. Ahuja, NCAER, Parishila Bhawan, I. P. Estate, New Delhi.
15. Sh. A. Govindam, NCAER, Parishila Bhawan, I. P. Estate, New Delhi.
16. Dr. R.K.Sharma, Sr. Deputy Director, NHB, 85, Institutional Area, Sector- 18, Gurgaon - 122015 (Haryana).
17. Dr. Mruthyunjaya Hegde, NCAP, Pusa Complex, New Delhi-12.
18. Mr. A. B. Chavan, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi.
19. Sh. N. R. Bhanumurthy, NIPFP, Near JNU, Institutional Area, Mehrauli, New Delhi-67
20. Dr. Nilabja Ghosh, IEG, University of Delhi, North Campus, Delhi.
21. Dr. Anita Kumari Gupta, IEG, University of Delhi, Delhi.
22. Dr. Rajesh Chadha, Senior Fellow, NCAER, Parishila Bhawan, I. P. Estate, New Delhi.
23. Dr. Anil Sharma, Senior Fellow, NCAER, Parishila Bhawan, I. P. Estate, New Delhi.
24. Dr. P.K. Joshi, Director, South Asia, IFPRI, NASC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi-12.
25. Dr. Liliana Balbi, Senior Economist, FAO. 55- Lodi Estate, Max Muller Marg, PO Box 3088, New Delhi- 03.
26. Sh. V.V. Sadamate, Pr. Consultant, FAO, 55- Lodi Estate, Max Muller Marg, PO Box 3088, New Delhi-110003. (e-mail: [sadamaev@yahoo.com](mailto:sadamaev@yahoo.com)).
27. Mr. Bhaskar Goswami, FAO, 55- Lodi Estate, Max Muller Marg, PO Box 3088, New Delhi-110003. (e-mail [bhaskar.goswami@fao.org](mailto:bhaskar.goswami@fao.org))
28. Dr. J.P. Singh, Director (Millets), DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
29. Dr. R.K. Tripathi, Director (Extn.), Extension Division, DAC, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.