

Proceedings of the first meeting of State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) of Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY) under the Chairpersonship of Chief Secretary, Haryana held on 10-1-2008 at 11:30 AM in the Haryana Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh.

The list of the members who participated in the meeting is attached.

The Financial Commissioner & Principal Secretary Agriculture, Mr. Raj Kumar welcomed the Chairperson and other participants to the first meeting of the State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY).

The Director Agriculture, Mrs. Sumita Misra informed that Govt. of India has launched a major initiative namely Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna to incentivise the states to invest more in agriculture and allied sectors and it offers considerable flexibility to the states in planning and approval of the projects. She said that the new scheme is an inter-sectoral scheme.

Agenda No.1: An Introduction to National Agriculture Development Project(NADP)/ Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojna (RKVY)

The Director of Agriculture then made a presentation about key components of the scheme and project proposals under stream-I and stream-II. She informed that as per the eligibility criteria envisaged in the scheme, the states must maintain or exceed in 2006-07, the baseline expenditure on agriculture and allied sectors (baseline is moving average percentage expenditure of previous three years) to be eligible for funds during 2007-08. She apprised the committee that percentage of expenditure of Agriculture & Allied Sectors during 2006-07 over the baseline expenditure was – 1.0 % and hence Haryana was not eligible for any funds under the scheme. But Govt. of India relaxed the eligibility criteria for the year 2007-08 being the first year of implementation and an amount of Rs.2122.00 lakh has already been allocated to Haryana State during the current financial year. She informed that the outlay in agriculture and allied sectors as a percentage of the total State plan outlay must be maintained and increased annually in a calibrated manner to access the funds under the scheme. She expressed the need that an amount of atleast Rs.264.00 lakh must be allocated to farm sector during 2008-09 to enable the State to fulfill the eligibility criteria and access the fund under the scheme during 2009-2010.

It was also informed to the committee that the funds under RKVY would be available under two streams i.e. Stream-I and Stream-II. Stream-I is project based and 75% funds of the scheme would be available under this stream. Stream-II is aimed at strengthening of existing schemes and for filling resource gaps of State Plan proposals. Funds under this scheme would be available to the extent of 25%. She apprised the committee that out of the total allocation of Rs.2122.00 lakh by Govt. of India, an amount of Rs.1592.00 lakhs would be available under Stream-I and Rs.530.00 lakhs under stream-II as per guidelines.

Financial Commissioner & Principal Secretary, Irrigation suggested that considerable investment is made in irrigation sector which benefits the farmers and this should be counted in agriculture sector to enable the State to qualify under the eligibility criteria. The Chairperson desired that this issue may be taken up with Govt. of India.

Agenda No.2: Approval of Projects under Stream-I

The SLSC discussed in detail the project proposals submitted by the Department amounting to Rs.1634.60 lakhs under stream-I of the scheme.

2.1 The Director of Agriculture informed that due to intensive farming & paddy- wheat rotation, the soil health has deteriorated. The deficiency of micro nutrients has assumed serious proportions. The carbon content has gone down to 0.2%, which has impaired the water and fertilizer use efficiency. She said that soil health improvement is thus the main thrust area to improve the productivity of crops on a sustainable basis. She emphasized that the dhaincha crop is an excellent leguminous green manuring crop and an area of 80000 hectares is proposed to be covered under this crop. The committee appreciated the proposal of the Department and subsidy @ 75% on the seed cost of dhaincha crop with a maximum limit of Rs.1600 per qtl. was agreed upon and an amount of Rs.384.00 lakhs was approved for this purpose.

2.2 The Director of Fisheries informed that there is good scope and potential for fish production in the state provided quality fish seed is made available and technical information to fish producers is disseminated to update their knowledge and skill. The committee approved an assistance of Rs.209.00 lakhs out of Rs.220.00 lakhs proposed for enhancing fish seed and fish productivity in the State. The committee did not find any merit in providing assistance of Rs. 11.00 lakhs for cultivation of aquatic plants and hence the proposal was not accepted.

2.3 The Director of Horticulture posed a project proposal amounting to Rs. 150.00 lakhs for promotion of improved varieties/hybrid seed of vegetables. He informed that there is an excellent potential and scope for vegetable cultivation in the state and farmers can earn more income by adopting the hybrid vegetable cultivation. But the hybrid seeds of vegetables are very costly and are beyond the reach of the cultivators. He said that if the hybrid seed of vegetables are subsidized to the extent of 50 % of the cost, it will provide a boost to the vegetable cultivation in the state.

Keeping in view the potential and scope of vegetable crops in the state, the SLSC increased the allocation of funds from Rs.150.00 lakhs to Rs.300.00 lakhs to promote improved varieties/hybrid seeds of vegetables. The committee decided that additional amount of Rs.150.00 lakhs would be transferred from Farm mechanization scheme.

2.4 A project proposal of Rs. 100.00 lakhs to promote sunflower cultivation was also put up before the committee. The Director Agriculture informed that sunflower is an important oilseed crop and its cultivation needs to be promoted to diversify the cropping pattern and to enhance the income of the farmers. She also informed that hybrid seed of sunflower is very costly and therefore it should be subsidized to promote its cultivation.

Agreeing with the proposal of Director Agriculture and in view of the potential of sunflower in the state, the SLSC approved a subsidy of 50% of the seed cost with a maximum limit of Rs.100 per kg on hybrid seed of sunflower to promote its cultivation. An amount of Rs.100.00 lakhs was approved for this purpose.

2.5 The Director of Agriculture while posing the project proposals for the promotion of reaper binders amounting to Rs. 575.00 lakhs, apprised the committee that more than 30% of wheat is harvested through combines and farmers in such areas generally set on fire the left-over wheat stubbles, which causes environmental pollution as well as loss of many beneficial micro-organisms and essential nutrients in the process. She said the promotion of reaper binders would go a long way not only to save precious fodder but also to prevent environmental pollution.

The committee agreed with the proposal but due to the transfer of Rs.150.00 lakhs for promotion of hybrid seeds of vegetables and lack of adequate funds, the committee approved Rs.394.00 lakhs only for promoting reaper binders in the State with a subsidy of Rs.1.15 lakhs per machine at 50% of the cost. The approximate cost of the machine is Rs.2.35 lakhs.

2.6 Smt. Sumita Misra, Director Agriculture apprised the committee that the soil and water testing is carried out through a network

of 30 soil testing laboratories set up in the state. Out of this, 7 laboratories are equipped for testing of micro-nutrients and there is a need to equip the other laboratories for testing of micro-nutrients as the deficiency of the micro-nutrients is spreading fast in the state and becoming the most limiting factor in crop production. Director Agriculture proposed a project for the up-gradation of 4 soil testing laboratories for micro-nutrients testing with an outlay of Rs. 160 lakhs to promote the balanced use of fertilizers. The committee approved the proposal. The committee appreciated the introduction of mobile soil testing van but was of the opinion that more mobile soil testing van should be pressed into service to provide soil and water testing reports to the farmers at their door step. The SLSC accordingly approved a revised outlay of Rs.160.00 lakhs for this scheme.

2.7 The Managing Director, HAIC briefed about the project proposal for setting up of a quality control and honey processing post harvest laboratory at Murthal. While justifying the project, The Managing Director HAIC informed that the establishment of honey processing laboratory would facilitate the availability of quality honey to the consumers. The committee approved an assistance of Rs.45.00 lakhs to provide impetus to quality honey production in the State.

As the total amount available under the stream-I was only 1592.00 lakha, the committee approved the final scheme-wise allocation as under:-

S.No.	Projects	Rs. in lakhs
1	Promotion of Green Manuring to Improve Soil Health	384.00
2	Enhancing Fish Seed & Fish Productivity and new Innovative Programme	209.00
3	Promotion of improved varieties/hybrid seeds of vegetables	300.00
4	Promotion of Sunflower Cultivation to Enhance the Income of the Farmers	100.00
5	Promotion of Agricultural Mechanization	394.00
6	Up-gradation of Existing Soil Testing Laboratories particularly for analysis of Micro-nutrients in the State	160.00
7	Setting up of Quality Control & Honey Processing Post Harvest Lab at HAIC, Murthal	45.00
	Total	1592.00

Agenda No.3: Strengthening of Existing Schemes under Stream-II during 2007-08

The committee discussed the proposals amounting to Rs. 596.22 lakhs under Stream-II of the scheme.

3.1 & 3.2 The Director of Agriculture informed that irrigation water is a scarce natural resource and there is a great need to economize its use. She said that considerable quantity of irrigation water is lost by evaporation and seepage from irrigation channels and under-ground water conveyance system will prevent such losses. She further said that the department also plans to promote the construction of small ponds to improve water use efficiency and to promote conjunctive use of water. The SLSC approved financial assistance of Rs. 94.00 lakhs for laying out of under-ground pipe-line system of water conveyance. An additional subsidy of 25% with a maximum of Rs. 30,000 per beneficiary will be available on the under-ground pipe-line. Additional subsidy @ 33% with a maximum limit of Rs. 50000 per pond was also approved for the construction of ponds. An amount of Rs.40.00 lakhs was approved as assistance on the construction of ponds for small farmers.

FC&PS Finance suggested that construction of kutch ponds should also be promoted in specific areas of Haryana state. He opined that such ponds can be constructed at a lower cost and maximum farmers can derive benefits. The committee decided that the Director Agriculture may explore the possibilities of such ponds and if found viable be included in the next year's RKVY plan.

3.3 The Director of Agriculture submitted that promotion of farm mechanization is very important for timely operations and to cut the cost of cultivation and proposed an additional subsidy @ 25% on farm implements with a total outlay of Rs.300.22 lakhs before the committee. The committee agreed to the proposal but due to shortage of funds, approved Rs246.00 lakhs only for the purpose.

3.4 The Managing Director, HSDC submitted a proposal amounting to Rs. 30.00 lakhs for strengthening of seed testing laboratory at Umri. He submitted that seed testing laboratory is very crucial to improve the seed quality and to improve the working efficiency of the laboratory. The committee approved an amount of Rs.30.00 lakhs for this purpose. The committee desired that private sector should also be encouraged to set up seed testing laboratories to supplement the efforts of public sector.

3.5 The Managing Director, HAIC submitted a proposal of Rs. 132.00 lakhs for the expansion of spawn and compost production unit at Murthal. He said that expansion of spawn & compost production unit would facilitate quality production of spawn & compost. The SLSC approved an amount of Rs.60.00 lakhs for the expansion of spawn and compost production unit of HAIC Agro R&D Centre, Murthal out of a total Rs. 132.00 lakhs proposed for the purpose. The committee decided that other components of the project may be taken up during the next financial year.

3.6 The Department of Agriculture also posed a proposal amounting to Rs. 60.00 lakhs to promote the cultivation of summer moong. The Director Agriculture said the cultivation of summer moong will not only improve the soil health but also provide an alternative crop to the farmers in place of summer paddy. The committee approved an allocation of Rs.60.00 lakhs for this purpose. The additional subsidy @ 25% of the cost with a maximum limit of Rs.1000 per qtl. was allowed on the seed of summer moong under the scheme.

As an amount of Rs. 530.00 lakhs was available under stream-II, the committee approved the final scheme-wise allocation as under:-

S.No.	Projects	Rs. In lakhs
1	Scheme for Providing Matching Share towards Centrally Sponsored schemes for providing Assistance for laying out under ground pipe line systems of water conveyance	94.00
2	Scheme for providing Matching share towards State Sponsored Scheme for providing Assistance on Construction of Tanks (Ponds) for small farmers	40.00
3	Strengthening of Existing Programme of Agril. Mechanization	246.00
4	Strengthening of seed testing lab at Umri	30.00
5	Expansion of Spawn & Compost Production unit at HAIC Agro R&D Centre, Murthal,(Sonapat).	60.00
6	Augmentation of State Plan Scheme of Summer Moong cultivation	60.00
	Total	530.00

In the end, the Chairperson, Mrs. Promilla Issar expressed gratitude to the Govt. of India for launching innovative new scheme like the RKVY and she advised the line departments to harness this opportunity to the maximum extent to revamp the agriculture sector and achieve the targeted growth rate of 4.0 % in farm sector.

The Chief Secretary and Chairperson of the Committee Mrs. Promilla Issar also underlined the fact that RKVY caters not only to the agriculture sector, but also to the allied sectors including Horticulture, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Fisheries etc. With a view to ensuring that the resources under RKVY are available for the various activities envisaged in the guidelines and also to ensure that planning and implementation of projects under RKVY happens in a coordinated and convergent way, she advised that the Agriculture Department, being the Nodal Department, should evolve effective ways of consultation with the other Departments. She suggested that a Coordination Committee involving all the stakeholders should be constituted for this purpose and

the meeting of this committee should be held on a regular basis under the Chairpersonship of Director of Agriculture to review the planning and implementation of the RKVY.

She congratulated the Agriculture Department for the initiatives taken under the RKVY and hoped that the Agriculture & allied sectors would take up innovative new schemes so that the income of the farmers of the state is enhanced by ensuring sustainable development.

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

List of Participants

1. Shri S.P. Sharma, IAS, FC&PS, Finance Department
2. Shri R.N. Prasher, IAS, FC&PS, Irrigation
3. Shri H.C. Disodia, IAS, FC&PS, Environment & Forest
4. Shri Raj Kumar, IAS, FC&PS, Agriculture
5. Shri Dalip Singh, IAS, CS, AH&D
6. Smt. Sumita Misra, IAS, Director of Agriculture, Haryana
7. Shri. P.S. Dagar, IAS, MD, HSDC
8. Shri O.P. Langyan, IAS, MD, HAIC
9. Shri Daljeet Singh, Director, Planning Commission, GOI, New Delhi
10. Shri B.D. Monga, CCF(Forest)
11. Shri S.S. Bhorla, Dy.ESA (Planning)
12. Dr. K.S. Dangi, DG(AH&D)
13. Dr. B.S. Chillar, Director Research, CCS HAU, Hisar
14. Dr. Satyavir Singh, Director Horticulture
15. Dr. P.V. Singh, Director Fisheries
16. Shri B.S. Duggal, ADA(Ext.), Panchkula
17. Shri S.K. Yadav, AD(AE), Haryana
18. Dr. V.S. Rapria, ADA(SC), Panchkula
19. Shri M.P. Singh, DGM, HAIC
20. Dr. A.S. Saini, JDH
21. Shri R.S. Solanki, Economist, Panchkula
22. Shri B.S. Jakhar, DDA(Agro), Panchkula
23. Shri M.L. Dawra, DDH
24. Shri V.P. Goyal, Veg. Specialist
25. Shri Sandeep Munjal, TA(RKVY)

