

Minutes of 12th meeting of the State Level Sanctioning Committee (SLSC) under RKVY held under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Secretary, Punjab on 10.07.2014 at Chandigarh.

12th meeting of SLSC was held under the Chairmanship of Sh. Sarvesh Kaushal, IAS, Chief Secretary, Punjab to review the progress of projects taken up under RKVY and for considering the projects to be taken-up during 2014-15. Financial Commissioner Development (FCD) welcomed the Chairman, Sh. Sanjay Lohiya, IAS, Joint Secretary, DAC, Sh. Akhilesh Kumar, Director (I&C), Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Govt. of India and other participants of the SLSC meeting. The list of participants is attached as Annexure-I.

2. With the permission of the Chair, FCD explained that Rastriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) has been launched by Govt. of India as a State Plan Scheme for ensuring the holistic development of Agriculture and allied sectors. The main objectives of the scheme are to incentivize the states so as to increase public investment in Agriculture and to provide flexibility and autonomy to states in the process of planning and execution of various programmes.

3. FCD further informed that a State Level Project Screening Committee (SLPSC) has been constituted as per RKVY guidelines to screen all project proposals for ensuring conformity with RKVY guidelines. The SLPSC screened various proposals received for funding during 2014-15 from various line departments in its meeting held on 09-04-2014. He further informed that in a meeting taken by Secretary Agriculture, Govt. of India at Chandigarh on 16-04-2014, minutes of which were circulated vide No.CPS 6-9/2014/NFSM dated 18-06-2014, it has been clarified that on-going RKVY projects are to be carried-out as per earlier guidelines under which these were approved and that there was no cap on investment for projects undertaken by Govt. or quasi-government sector. The Chairman, SLSC also directed that the implementing agencies

should meticulously ensure that the guidelines of the scheme and cost norms are followed while executing the projects and there is no duplication of funds with the activities of other schemes.

4. Thereafter, the agenda of meeting was taken-up for consideration and a brief gist of discussions and decisions taken is as under:

ITEM No. 1. Utilization of Funds under RKVY:

The year-wise release of funds during 12th Five Year Plan i.e. 2012-13 and 2013-14 along with the expenditure was noted. FCD informed that the funds for these years have been released by the Finance Department and have been passed on to the implementing agencies. The utilization certificate for 2012-13 shall be sent by 15th July, 2014 and for 2013-14 by 30th September, 2014. The year-wise progress under the scheme was noted.

ITEM No.2. Approval of the modifications/midcourse corrections made in the projects approved during 2012-13 and 2013-14.

FCD explained that during the implementation of various approved projects, it was felt that some modifications are required for their efficient implementation and to achieve desired outcomes. Accordingly some changes in the following projects have been made with the prior approval of the Chairman SLSC in anticipation of approval by the committee. The Committee approved the modifications proposed in Item No.2.1 and 2.2. Regarding Item No.2.3 the Committee agreed to allow the expenditure already incurred on construction of seed godowns as a onetime measure.

ITEM No.3. Projects Proposed to be taken during 2014-15:

FCD further informed that the total allocation under RKVY for 2014-15 by the GoI is Rs.508.71 crore, out of this Rs.250.00 crore has been allocated under Crop Diversification Programme and Rs. 10.00 crore under National Mission on Protein Supplements to the State. Joint Secretary, GoI enquired about the distribution of funds under projects for production

growth and infrastructure development. FCD explained that the total cost of projects put-up for approval of SLSC is Rs.391.77 crore, out of this projects amounting to Rs.194.48 crore (about 49%) are for production growth and the remaining worth Rs.197.29 crore are for creation and strengthening of infrastructure in agriculture and livestock sector.

ITEM No.3.1 Implementation of on-going Projects:

FCD intimated that some projects have been approved in the earlier SLSC meetings but these could not be taken-up for implementation due to less release of funds under RKVY and further prioritization of projects by the State Government. The total cost of these on-going projects is Rs 492.74 crore, out of which Rs 85.22 crore have been released to-date and as per requirements of implementing agencies, Rs 179.48 crore are proposed to be released during this year.

The Joint Secretary, GoI pointed out that the increased outlay for the project for setting-up of Pesticide Residue Laboratory (4.1.4) has not been approved by SLSC so far as such the funds for this project may released as per approved outlay. He further pointed out that the revised proposals for some other projects are also yet to be put-up to the SLSC and the releases in these cases should also be restricted to the approved outlays. The proposed releases against the other on-going projects were approved.

Item No.3.2 Approval of New Projects:

A. Under Production Growth Component

I. Agriculture Department:

Item No.3.2.1 Efficient Distribution of Fertilizers.

FCD explained that as Punjab is located at far away from the Ports and manufacturing plants so it affects the timely supply fertilizers especially DAP. To ensure the timely availability of DAP fertilizer to the farmers during a short span of three weeks available for sowing of wheat after paddy, the present project proposal with budget outlay of Rs. 500.00 lac has been prepared. The Joint Secretary, GoI said that the details of the expenditure to be incurred are not mentioned in the proposal. FCD explained that two government agencies namely Markfed

and Punjab Agro Industries Corporation are engaged in pre-positioning of fertilizers particularly phosphatic fertilizers to ensure the timely availability for sowing of crops.

The item was approved subject to the confirmation by GoI.

Item No.3.2.2 Efficient application of Nitrogenous Fertilizers using Leaf Colour Chart.

FCD apprised that this technology would help in judicious use of fertilizers and reducing the cost of production. He further, informed that execution of the proposal has been modified to provide for laying of 250 demonstrations in two villages in each of the 145 blocks to have a visible impact.

After discussion, the modified proposal amounting to Rs. Rs.65.20 lac was approved.

Item No.3.2.3 Promotion of Tensiometers for timely and efficient use of irrigation water.

FCD informed that to check the depletion of water table in the state, there is a need to promote the water saving techniques like use of Tensiometer. He further informed that the implementation of the proposal has been slightly modified and Tensiometer are proposed to be utilized for laying demonstrations at the fields of 100 farmers in one village in each of block (145 blocks) instead of distributing to the Panchyats.

After discussion, the modified proposal amounting to Rs.52.16 lac was approved.

Item No.3.2.4 Replacement of Certified Wheat Seed in Non-NFSM districts of the state.

FCD explained that since the rate of subsidy under National Food Security Mission has been doubled, the present proposal has been prepared keeping in view of hike in the rate of subsidy and to supply subsidized seed in districts not covered under NFSM. The budget outlay for 2014-15 is Rs. 2000.00 lac. The JS (Crops) desired that seeds to be distributed should not be of varieties of wheat more than 10 years old. The Commissioner Agriculture (CA) ensured that the guidelines issued by DAC for NFSM would be followed in the letter and spirit.

The proposal was approved.