

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana Cell

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE NORTH EASTERN ZONAL CONFERENCE TO REVIEW THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RASHTRIYA KRISHI VIKAS YOJANA IN NORTH EASTERN STATES HELD ON 27.11.2007 AT GUWAHATI, ASSAM.

List of participants is appended at Annexure-I

Shri J.P. Meena, Agriculture Production Commissioner, Government of Assam welcomed the participants to the Zonal Conference.

Shri P.K. Basu, Additional Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC), Government of India (GOI) explained in brief the background of launching the RKVY scheme as deliberated in the meeting of the Full Planning Commission and the National Development Council. The objective of holding the Zonal Conferences was to sensitize and activate the State Governments to implement the RKVY scheme in a time bound manner in the current year. The present Zonal Conference at Guwahati for North Eastern Region was the last one in the series of five such Conferences.

Shri Pankaj Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation made brief presentation on the RKVY scheme, inter alia, highlighting the objectives, salient features, eligibility criteria, allocation of funds to North Eastern States and the time line to be followed for each activity in the current year as under :

- Constitution and notification of SLSC by 3.11.2007;
- Identification of Nodal Agency for implementation by 3.11.2007;
- Identification of District Planning Unit by 16.11.2007;
- Preparation of State Agriculture Plan/District Agriculture Plan by 30.11.2007;
- Preparation of self-projects under Stream-I by 30.11.2007;
- Preparation of proposals under Stream-II by 30.11.2007;
- Holding of SLSC meeting during 16.11.2007 to 31.12.2007;
- Submission of proposals for release of fund to Department of Agriculture and Cooperation by 31.12.2007.

He also mentioned that funds under Stream-II of the RKVY had been released to the eligible States. He advised the States to visit the web-site of the Agriculture Department, Government of Karnataka (raitamitra.kar.nic.in) to view the projects prepared by Karnataka under Stream-I of the RKVY which were cleared in the SLSC meeting held on 26.11.2007.

Aurnachal Pradesh: The SLSC has already been constituted by the State Government. The Department of Agriculture would be nodal agency at State Level for implementation of the RKVY. District Planning Units under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner for all 16 districts are being constituted exclusively for implementation of RKVY scheme. Priorities identified are soil health, strengthening seed farms, INM/IPM, nurseries, micro-irrigation, fisheries, milk, poultry, piggery, marketing infrastructure,

paddy, coarse cereals and oilseeds. Additional Secretary, GOI advised the State Government to prepare the projects for the activities already identified by the State and hold the meeting of SLSC in the 1st week of December

Assam: The Director (Agri), Govt. of Assam made a brief presentation on the agricultural scenario in the State. The State has witnessed a decline in growth of agriculture over the past decade. Supply of quality inputs, irrigation, mechanization, soil health, development of fisheries, strengthening of marketing infrastructure, health of cattle and availability of fodder have to be ensured. The State is deficient in cereals, pulses and oilseeds, yield gaps exist in production of rice, wheat and oilseeds. The growth of livestock economy is slow. Per capita milk production has been declining. Fisheries, including ornamental fishes have good potential. A total investment of Rs.4,100 crore is required in the agriculture & allied sectors to achieve the growth rate of 2% during the 11th Plan. He informed that SLSC and the District Agricultural Development Committee (DADC) have been notified. District Agriculture Plans (DAPs) and State Agri Plan (SAP) have been formulated. DADCs have been asked to open separate bank accounts to implement the scheme. Further, the Dy. Commissioners were oriented on formulation of DAPs. APC, Govt. of Assam observed that tractor, being a primary means of mechanization, should be allowed under RKVY. He further requested to revise the eligibility criteria to enable the resource poor States to qualify for assistance under the scheme as the State Government need time to adjust its allocation to various sectors in tune with the RKVY guidelines. Additional Secretary, Govt. of India impressed upon the State Government to concentrate on the State plan budget to enhance the plan outlays for agriculture and allied sectors to become eligible to get benefits under the RKVY scheme.

Sikkim: The Secretary, Agriculture, Government of Sikkim explained in brief the agricultural scenario in the State. The State Government has declared Sikkim an 'organic State'. Horticulture/Floriculture has considerable potential. The State Government has identified a number of activities like creation of Post Harvest infrastructure, promotion of organic farming and certification, promotion of animal husbandry in an integrated manner with crop husbandry and construction of community cattle sheds under the RKVY. The SLSC has already been constituted in the State. SAMETI would be the nodal agency for implementation of the RKVY. District Planning Units have been set up for each of 4 districts under the Chairmanship of District Collector. The SLSC meeting to consider and approve the projects under stream-I is likely to be held in the 3rd week of December, 2007. Under Stream-II, activities relating to bench terracing and water harvesting are proposed. He highlighted that the State needed more expertise in organic farming.

Tripura: The Joint secretary, Agriculture, Government of Tripura stated that the SLSC has been constituted. The Government is considering appointment of a Consultant for preparation of District Agricultural Plans (DAPs). SAMETI would be nodal agency for implementation of the RKVY in the State. The State Government has proposed to hold SLSC meeting on 3rd December, 2007 for approval of projects under Stream-I. The Director (Agri) said that the focus was on System of Rice Intensification (aromatic

varieties), exploiting the potential in oranges and pineapples, developing marketing infrastructure and Agriculture College. Proposals relating to animal husbandry & fisheries sector will also be included.

Manipur: SLSC has been constituted. Since the Govt. of Manipur is ineligible to get any fund under RKVY in current year, State Government has not taken any action for preparation of DAPs and shelf of projects under Stream-I. Additional Secretary, Govt of India advised the State representative to take immediate steps to enhance the State Plan outlays for agriculture & allied sectors in current year so as to become eligible in current year and in subsequent years. Moreover, action regarding preparation of DAPs /SAP and the shelf of projects under Stream-I should also be taken up immediately.

Nagaland: The Director (Agri) stated that the SLSC is being constituted. The first meeting of SLSC is expected to be held in 2nd week of December, 2007. A number of areas like soil conservation, fisheries, horticulture, agricultural marketing etc. are being identified for attention under RKVY.

Meghalaya: The Director (Agri), Government of Meghalaya informed that the SLSC is being constituted. The DAPs/SAP is being prepared. The Additional Secretary, DAC, requested Meghalaya to hold the meeting of SLSC by 2nd week of December. The details of the District Planning Units may also be intimated immediately.

Mizoram: The Director (Agri), Govt. of Mizoram, explained in brief that State has been declared famine affected on account of crops damage by the rodents. The first priority of the State Govt. is to arrange rice for the people. He specially requested to reconsider the eligibility criteria in view of this extraordinary situation as the State Govt. may not be in a position to provide the requisite funds in the agriculture and allied sectors to become eligible to access the RKVY funds in the current year. However, for implementation of the RKVY the State Govt. has already constituted the SLSC and identified activities like water harvesting, piggery & poultry, setting up of processing units under horticulture sector (especially enthurium & roses) and turmeric for focused attention under RKVY. He also requested the need to sensitize the Planning and Finance Secretaries of the ineligible States to mobilize the additional resources required in the agriculture and allied sectors.

Dr. H.S. Sur, Senior Consultant, Planning Commission stated that District Agriculture Plans should be prepared by the State Government by involving the PRIs more effectively and in terms of the Ramachandran Report and guidelines issued by the Planning Commission. Presently, Planning Commission is in process of finalization of manual for DAPs/SAPs.

Dr. Paul Pandian, Deputy Adviser (Agri), Planning Commission stated that the states could go ahead with implementation of their proposals and Stream-II in line with the State Plan for 2007-08 already approved by the Planning Commission. The proposal should be in conformity with the priority areas/Plan schemes identified under State Plan. The proposals under Stream-II of the RKVY should also be submitted to the Planning

Commission immediately. Performance reports would have to be submitted to avail of funds under Stream-II from 2008-09 onwards.

Dr. Keshavmurthy, Deputy Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairy & Fisheries, Government of India informed that the thrust areas under this sector are fodder development, genetic upgradation of cattle & buffaloes, increased milk production and creation of necessary infrastructure for milk production, enlarging raw material base for leather industry, infrastructure for health of livestock, poultry/fish/small ruminants development. States are requested to give adequate focus on these activities while formulating project under RKVY in such a way that those areas/components not covered under ongoing schemes of DAHD&F can be taken care of. States should take advantage of the increased outlay for Dairy Venture Capital Fund/NFDB. States should prepare projects with the goal of increasing the investment in milk and meat production by proposing appropriate projects like establishment & improvement of slaughter houses, poultry units, improving veterinary hospitals & dispensaries, strengthening diagnostic & vaccine production units setting up fodder banks and enrichment plants, cold chain for milk procurement etc.

The Additional Secretary, DAC advised the States to leverage funds available under RKVY to step up investment in the agriculture and allied sectors. For example, projects could combine the assistance under RKVY with loan from NABARD. He asked the States to make all efforts to expedite implementation of RKVY, which was the largest scheme in the agriculture and allied sectors.

The Conference ended with a Vote of Thanks from the Director (Agriculture), Government of Assam.
