



REPORT
ON
POLICY ISSUES AND OPTIONS
BASED ON
INTERFACE WITH FARMERS



Haryana Kisan Ayog
CCS HAU Campus, Hisar 125004
Government of Haryana

HARYANA KISAN AYOOG

Report on Policy Issues and Options
Based on Interface with Farmers

Haryana Kisan Ayog

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FOREWORD

Haryana is among the most agriculturally advanced States of India. The State is known for its all round development in its agriculture and allied sectors, this has been due to right policies of the Government for better and faster growth of the sector. It has the distinction of being the first in the production of basmati rice as well as in the productivity of wheat in the country. Haryana is also the second largest contributor to the national food basket. All these achievements could have not been possible without untiring efforts of progressive farmers.

With a view to address the emerging concerns of farmers and to provide them needed advisory as well as policy support, the Government took a progressive step in July, 2010 by establishing Haryana Kisan Ayog (HKA) with its Headquarters at CCS HAU, Hisar.

The Ayog immediately initiated a bottom up approach of consultation with the farmers. Four interface workshops, at the divisional level, were organized, involving a large number of farmers representing different agricultural sectors and land holder groups, agriculture development and senior government officers, university scientists, NGOs, members and consultants of the Ayog. Two separate meetings (one with women farmers and another with progressive farmers) were also held. Opinions of the farmers were ascertained in writing. Information so gathered was critically analyzed to address issues concerning land, water, input delivery system, credit, marketing, risk and insurance, livestock, fishery and those of general nature.

This report entitled “Report on Policy Issues and Options Based on Interface with Farmers” is a synthesis of various agriculture development related issues that require priority action by the Government. I am sure this report will receive due attention of the concerned departments and functionaries for its implementation so as to initiate appropriate action for redressing the specific concerns of the farmers of Haryana. Steps so taken will enable farmers to ensure yet faster growth of agriculture in Haryana.

(R. S. Paroda)



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(R.S. Dalal)

Introduction

Since its establishment, the Haryana Kisan Ayog (HKA) has held a number of participatory meetings with a large number of farmers from Hisar, Ambala, Rohtak and Gurgaon Divisions, officials of Haryana State, senior experts of CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, Central Soil Salinity Research Institute (CSSRI), Karnal, National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal and the officials of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi. These meetings were mostly attended by the Chairman and the members of the Commission. Also, the senior officers of the concerned departments of Government of Haryana, scientists of CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar and Consultants of the Ayog had participated. The farmers were apprised of the objectives of the Ayog and their specific suggestions, both verbally and in writing, were invited to solicit problems being faced by them and possible suggestions for the overall agricultural development in Haryana. All these meetings proved highly useful to assess various issues while ensuring a bottom up approach for specific need assessment.

In addition, special meetings were conducted with the livestock farmers at NDRI, Karnal and the farmers facing problem of soil salinity at CSSRI, Karnal. For the proposed Agriculture Policy of Haryana, two separate meetings, one with selected 20 farmers and the second with 100 women farmers of the State, were also organized for interaction with the Policy Working Group. Along with these meetings an advertisement was also issued in the newspapers to solicit suggestions from the stakeholders. The proceedings of all these meetings were also circulated to the concerned departments/ institutions by the Ayog for possible follow up and suggestions.

Based on various interactions, as stated above, several important issues emerged calling upon priority attention of the Government. This report covers a synthesis of priority issues as well as possible suggestions that need to be addressed by the concerned Departments/ Institutions/ Ministries.

Policy Issues and Options

1 Land

Land is the basic resource and sink of residues for all agricultural enterprises. It is not only that land resource is fixed and limited but its availability for agricultural use is also decreasing continuously on account of rapid industrialization, urbanization, development of infrastructure facilities, etc. Besides this, soil health has declined considerably. Hence, it calls for an immediate attention of all concerned as a matter of priority.

Concerns/ Issues	Possible Options/ Suggestions for Action
1.1 Law on acquisition of land for non-agricultural uses to protect farmers' interest	Since land resource cannot be extended horizontally, utmost care is required while diverting it for non-agricultural uses. If good fertile agricultural land is still required for development related activities, due care is required to protect the interest of farmers. In case of land acquisition for Private/ Corporate houses, it would be more appropriate if buyers and sellers decide the market driven price at their own. In case of land acquisition by the Government for industrial use by the corporate sector, the long term interest of the farmers have to be protected either by making them partners in the business or provide some employment opportunity to their future generations being a part of land policy. Also there should be an institutional mechanism of training and educating the farmers for most profitable and reliable investment. Land acquisition policies should be such that only wastelands are acquired first. Also, there should be clear-cut definition of developmental activities for which land has to be acquired. No profit making activity of land acquiring agency be termed as developmental activity. It is felt that for valuation and acquisition of agricultural land, a separate body such as "Land Acquisition Commission" be established.
1.2 Change of land use and its utilization within specified period	(a) While granting change in land use from agriculture to non-agriculture use, the purpose for which change in land use is being sought need to be mentioned in official records and same has to be monitored. It will help in assessing the actual requirement of land and serve as deterrent to those

	<p>individuals whose aim is mainly to resale, rather than their own use.</p> <p>(b) Farmers are also allowed to establish small scale industries on their own land through appropriate provision in rules for change in land use</p> <p>(c) Sometimes, land acquired by industrial houses and colonizers remain unused for a very long period for futuristic profits/safety nets, which is a matter of concern. In this context, a specified time frame (maximum of five years) be fixed in future.</p>
<p>1.3 Check on fragmentation of land holdings below economic threshold</p>	<p>The general concern of division of land below an economic level (around 1 ha) results in unviable holdings. Since further fragmentation is not in the interest of overall agricultural growth of the State, law on minimum land holding is urgently warranted, for which a policy decision by the Government has to be taken being a matter of great concern.</p>
<p>1.4 Land lease process to be streamlined to ensure effective land use and capital investment</p>	<p>Absentee land owners and resource poor farmers having small piece of land generally lease out their land to the tenants for cultivation. Under the existing tenancy law, tenants have the first right to buy the land after continuous occupancy of six years provided land is being sold. This forces the land owners to frequently change their tenants. As a result, this practice leads to poor investment for land/irrigation improvement by the tenants, resulting in low productivity and poor soil health. A suitable amendment in the land tenancy law must, therefore, be enacted to ensure that there will be no infringement as for as ownership rights are concerned, irrespective of the length of tenancy.</p>

<p>1.5 Declining soil health conditions need organic recycling on priority</p>	<p>There is a problem of soil organic carbon depletion, deterioration in bio-physic-chemical characteristics of soil and progressive decline in factor productivity. Thus, there is a need to provide appropriate incentives to the farmers for environmental services, such as effective soil cover, increased organic matter recycling through incorporation of wheat/ rice straw, increased use of organic manure (farm yard manure (FYM), compost, vermi-compost), green manuring, and incorporation of legumes like mungbean in rice-wheat, cotton-wheat cropping systems etc. Also burning of wheat/rice/mustard straw must be banned and subsidies be increased on reapers, hay bailers, zero till drills etc. Through proper policy, incentives be also put in place for carbon trading in case if farmers adopt organic farming, conservation agriculture (CA) practices, horticulture, agro forestry etc.</p>
<p>1.6 Stamp duty on mortgage of land for Kisan Credit Card (KCC)</p>	<p>Presently, farmers are paying 1.5 per cent of stamp duty while mortgaging their lands for getting KCC. This is apparently an indirect tax. It must, therefore, be waived off with immediate effect.</p>

2 Water

Water is the most precious agricultural input. Both quantity and quality of water are gradually declining /deteriorating. The State is facing twin problems of falling water table in the north-eastern part of the State having good quality of ground water, whereas rising water table is a major problem in the south-western part where ground water is mostly brackish. Hence, efficient water management becomes a high priority under both the situations.

Concerns/ Issues	Possible Options/ Suggestions for Action
<p>2.1 Water to be used most judiciously being a critical resource</p>	<p>Further progress and sustainability of agriculture would largely depend on long term policy on water use in Haryana. Policies are needed to declare water as State asset and be used efficiently and not abused. For this, bold decisions to</p>

	<p>establish water user associations, regulatory authorities, penalty for excess water use or its wastage, adoption of water use efficient technologies, sharing of ground water resource as per cropping pattern's need and conjunctive use of brackish water, beside overall water pricing policy are to be taken on priority. Economic pricing of energy is also expected to increase efficiency.</p>
<p>2.2 Improving water use efficiency (WUE)</p>	<p>The existing flood irrigation practice needs to be discouraged at all costs. To ensure this, appropriate policy interventions such as higher subsidy up to 90 per cent on micro-irrigation systems, promoting alternate water use efficient cropping systems, use of plastic mulch, laser land leveling, alternate furrow/raised bed planting etc are needed. It is proposed that subsidy on use of micro-irrigation be increased to 90 per cent for all farmers in the state.</p>
<p>2.3 Supplementing water resources</p>	<p>Recharge of ground water should be ensured through different measures like watershed development, roof water harvesting, and construction of ponds at appropriate distance and places, renovation of existing village ponds, separate drain for rain water, and pumping of seepage water near canal banks for augmentation of water supply. Also conjunctive use of brackish water with good quality canal/tube well water up to recommended level of 20 per cent has to be ensured as a matter of policy.</p>
<p>2.4 Diversion of industrial effluent and sewage water in canal system of Gurgaon Division</p>	<p>In Gurgaon and Faridabad districts the canal system has been polluted much above the tolerance limit mainly on account of release of untreated industrial effluent and sewage water. The polluted water thus has adverse effect on animal and human health. Also the accumulation of heavy metals, pathogens, undesirable micro-organisms in food, fodder and soil systems is a matter of concern. Thus, in future, no untreated sewage water or industrial effluent be</p>

	allowed to put in the canals. Government legislation is needed to be enforced strictly to ensure that the sewage sludge available do not contain the toxic metal more than the prescribed limit by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
2.5 <i>Khet ka pani khet mein</i>	<i>In situ</i> conservation of water is an old age practice for recharging of aquifer and maintaining soil moisture and green cover. To ensure large scale adoption of this practice, farmers be motivated to raise their field bunds up to at least one foot under Integrated Water Management Programme (IWMP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNAREGA) so as to ensure on farm water harvesting. Also the funds available under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) scheme could be used for this purpose, being a much useful option.
2.6 Proper utilization of flood water	There is often problem of excess flood water during the rainy season in Ghaggar basin. Often, flood water destroys standing crops, roads, canals, other infrastructure etc. and disrupts normal life in many areas. This problem can be resolved by initiating a joint national project by Governments of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan and avail 90 per cent grant from the Central Government. This national project should be kept outside the inter-State surface water disputes.

3 Improving Input Delivery System

Present day agriculture is input intensive. To achieve a minimum of 4 per cent growth rate in agriculture, timely supply of quality inputs in sufficient quantity at the doorstep of the farmers has to be ensured. Invariably, farmers' feedback revealed that they do not get inputs in time and in sufficient quantity. Also the quality of inputs is invariably not up to the mark/required standards.

Concerns/ Issues	Possible Options/ Suggestions for Action
3.1 Non-availability of quality inputs in time	The farmers have general complaints regarding timeliness and quality of farm inputs available in the market. Thus, quality control mechanisms have to be strengthened further and monitored regularly. As a long term measures, agriculture/ veterinary inputs have to be sold through trained agriculture/ veterinary input dealers/ suppliers
3.2 Production and availability of good quality seeds of improved varieties/hybrids	Production of hybrid seeds is mainly in the hands of private seed companies. Profit being their main motive, they often charge higher price and resort to unfair practices. Also the seeds of desired varieties/ hybrids are invariably in short supply. To overcome these problems, Public Sector organizations/ institutions need to be encouraged to produce quality seeds in sufficient quantity through desired incentives like subsidy on good quality hybrid seeds. For this, a Rolling Plan for seed production has to be put in place which is well coordinated and monitored. A Mission Mode Project on fodder seed production, with required provision of subsidy, involving both Public and Private sector, is urgently needed.
3.3 Availability and use of balanced fertilizers	Imbalanced use of fertilizers is a major problem in attaining optimal yields and maintaining required soil nutrient balance. In general, use of nitrogenous fertilizers is more than the recommended ratio of NPK, whereas there is need to overcome present imbalance of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers. Farmers must be motivated to use fertilizers on soil test basis. Higher subsidies on phosphatic and potassic fertilizers may be another option worth considering.
3.4 Farm implements, tools and mechanization	Small implements play an important role in agricultural production processes especially for the small farm holders. Bringing small implements and tools under the umbrella of subsidy would improve both quality and availability of

	implements since margin of profit is invariably low for manufacturing of small tools and implements like sickle, hand hoe etc. Subsidies on farm implements should not be restricted to some selected dealers. Instead, farmers be allowed to purchase from any dealer who meets required specifications and quality standards. MGNAREGA scheme of rural employment has affected adversely the availability of outside labour and hence the mechanization for important operations such as: paddy transplanting, sugarcane planting and harvesting etc. is, therefore, called for.
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4 Credit

Credit is the life line of any enterprise. It is more so for agriculture sector on account of poor financial condition of the farmers with practically no or very little savings to meet their day to day cash requirements for the farming operations.

Concerns/ Issues	Possible Options/ Suggestions for Action
4.1 Issuance of Kisan Credit Cards (KCC) to all farmers	Irrespective of farm size/land holding, all farmers be issued Kisan Credit Cards at the earliest possible. This has to be a State priority and the procedures need to be simplified to ensure that all farmers get their KCC, with sufficient credit limits, within a specified period of one year.
4.2 Ensuring availability of credit at low interest rates	Agriculture is considered to be an unprivileged sector compared to other sectors of state economy. It is only in this sector that the farmers have no control over their production and ironically the prices are determined by mandi buyers and arhityas (commission agents). Distress sale, especially of non-public procurement system commodities, can be avoided to a greater extent if farmers are given short term credit at low interest rates (3-4 per cent). Therefore, it calls for a simplified procedure for granting short term loans against their produce. Similar loans should also be made available to dairy, fishery and poultry farmers.

<p>4.3 Collateral security arrangement for farmers not possessing land</p>	<p>According to present procedure, the entire land of a farmer has to be mortgaged for taking the loan from the financial institutions. This procedure deprives him from applying for another loan, when needed. To overcome this problem, the mortgage of land be regulated as per the value of land and amount of loan requested by the farmers. Credit should also be extended to those dairy, livestock, fishery and poultry farmers who do not possess agricultural land. In fact, they be treated on par with industry owners seeking loans for their enterprises.</p> <p>The tenant farmers should also be eligible for agriculture loan as joint venture liability without mortgaging as collateral.</p>
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5 Marketing

Marketing is as important as production. It is the market where prices are determined and the fate of farmer's produce and ultimately his income is decided. Lack of proper marketing infrastructure and current rigidity of the Agricultural Produce Markets Act are the factors responsible for poor returns to the farmers, especially in case of perishable commodities. Marketing system should, therefore, be more efficient and pro-farmers as well as pro-consumers.

<p>5.1 Revision of Agricultural Produce Markets Act</p>	<p>The maximum post harvest losses and price spread are in perishable horticultural, fisheries, dairy and poultry products. There is an urgent need for specialized modern mandies for fruits, vegetables and flowers, milk and milk products, fishery and poultry products with cold chain and primary processing/ packaging facilities supported by Information technology (IT) driven market intelligence. This could be achieved by making suitable modifications in the Agricultural Produce Markets Act allowing establishment of private/ cooperative markets as well as permission for direct sale by the farmers/producers, especially of vegetables, fruits and flowers. It will not only help in bringing healthy competition, but would also ensure better price to the farmers as well as</p>
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	consumers. Hence, revision of Agricultural Produce Markets Act becomes a priority.
5.2 Widening of minimum support price (MSP) basket with effective support system	Agricultural prices are often volatile and farmers are not so well organized to regulate supply of their produce. Thus, minimum support price (MSP) for major agricultural commodities, including some important vegetables like potato, onion, tomato with effective procurement system has to be ensured. MSP should be at least 1.5 times to the cost of production. There should be a dedicated system of procurement and prompt payments to the farmers.
5.3 Pledged storage facility	Distress sale is a common phenomenon for the farmers, in view of their pressing requirement for cash. Thus, there is an urgent need to develop pledged storage or warehousing facilities, at nominal rates, around a cluster of villages or <i>mandies</i> with the provision of negotiable receipt as well as loans at low interest rates (3-4 per cent).
5.4 Contract farming	Contract farming is an important means of linking farmers to the market and safeguarding them from wide price fluctuations. Contract farmer would invariably cultivate specified crop/ variety under the strict supervision/ management of the contractor. The inputs are invariably provided by the contracting firm. In spite of following all directives, the contractor invariably imposes some deductions in the guise of quality of the product. This process requires proper check and balance through an appropriate regulation issued by the Government. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) could be devised and used with provision of dedicated disputes settlement mechanisms.
5.5 Kisan Bazaar	<i>Kisan Bazaars</i> under different names are working effectively in some States like Raitu Bazaar in Andhra Pradesh, ITC e-chopal in M.P. and Apani Mandi in Punjab. These do enable farmers to avoid exploitative practices by traders in the markets. Also Kisan Bazaars bring producers and consumers in direct contact. Hence, there is an urgent need

	to have <i>Kisan Bazaar</i> in the State with proper facilities for marketing and storage. The farmers bringing their own produce to <i>Kisan Bazaar</i> be extended free marketing space, travel and transportation for a reasonable distance within the State, as being followed in Andhra Pradesh. Agriculture Marketing Board could be mandated to establish around 100 <i>Kisan Bazaars</i> in the first phase.
5.6 Rural based primary processing facilities	The State has some good agro- processing industries, mostly in and around cities. However, rural based small scale agro- industries in the State are required for processable surpluses. These would not only help in reducing the post-harvest losses but would also benefit farmers considerably. Hence, emphasis is required on creation of multi-purpose low cost rural based agro-processing complexes/ parks. For this, the Farmers Self Help Groups (SHG) or the Cooperatives are to be established with provisions of needed incentives and rewards.

6 Risk Management and Insurance

Government support system for risk management and insurance are the two important measures to protect the farmers against natural calamities and weather uncertainties associated with agricultural enterprises/ practices. Hence, these measures be further strengthened

Concerns/ Issues	Possible Options/ Suggestions for Action
6.1 Relief measures against natural calamities	Natural calamities are unavoidable adverse factors affecting agricultural production thereby reducing the income of the farmers. These also erode available natural assets. The natural calamities are invariably a localized phenomena and hence be assessed either at village or at block level. Current practice to consider District as a unit for assessing the losses due to natural calamities is not helpful to the farmers. It is, therefore, recommended that in future, either a village or a block be considered as minimum unit for such assessments. Also there should be a provision of some interim relief to the farmers till such time final assessment is done by the

	<p>State/Central Government agencies.</p> <p>Also, in future, damage due to frost, cyclones and terminal heat stress at flowering stage be considered as components of natural hazards for providing compensation to the farmers.</p> <p>Claims of drought relief, Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) are currently based on more than 50 per cent loss in productivity/production. Existing manual states that crops should have been sown, germinated and then damaged. Somehow, this does not cover delay in planting due to delayed monsoon. Therefore, there is need to revise the existing manual by the Government of India.</p>
<p>6.2 Insurance for Crops and Livestock</p>	<p>Insurance is an effective tool to minimize the risk in agriculture, including the livestock sector. The present provision of crop and livestock insurance under the Central Government sponsored scheme covers only a few crops and indigenous/crossbred milch cattle and buffaloes. Under this scheme, 50 per cent premium is given by the Government. In case of animals, the benefit of subsidy is restricted to only two animals per family. The scheme covers natural calamities like flood and drought but not frost, terminal heat stress and specific diseases of animals or species other than cattle and buffaloes. In order to make the crop and livestock insurance program more effective, the Government of Haryana should have its own comprehensive agricultural insurance scheme to cover major crops and all milking animals with no restriction on numbers.</p>
<p>6.3 Protected Agriculture</p>	<p>Per capita land availability and size of holdings are going to decrease due to increasing population, urbanization and industrialization. Hence, cultivation especially of high value crops in poly or net houses with controlled fertigation will</p>

	<p>economically sustain a family on less than one acre.</p> <p>Power requirements can be met from solar energy and rain water harvested from poly houses could also be recycled for production. It will, therefore, be an efficient resource input and social capital use scenario.</p>
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7 Livestock

Livestock sector in Haryana contributes about 30 per cent to its agricultural GDP. It is also a major source of employment throughout the year and livelihood to small holder farmers, including women. For overall agricultural growth; livestock, poultry and fishery would require focused attention and support. Haryana is also endowed with rich genetic diversity and known for the best 'Murrah' breed of buffalo and cattle breeds (Haryana and Sahiwal).

Concerns/ Issues	Possible Options/ Suggestions for Action
7.1 Genetic improvement and conservation of dairy animals	<p>a) Haryana is famous for livestock breeds, namely Murrah buffalo, Haryana and Sahiwal cattle. Indiscriminate breeding with non-descript bulls and cross-breeding of Haryana and Sahiwal cows with exotic breeds has affected adversely the genetic potential of these breeds. Hence, there is urgency for both genetic improvement and conservation of elite animals of these breeds. For this, specialized animal breeding farms; incentives for in-situ conservation, check on migration of good animals by creating inter-state check points etc. would be required. As a policy, rather than sale and export of live animals, the State could promote sale of semen and embryos of these breeds.</p> <p>b) Since use of bullock power in agriculture has been reduced due to agricultural mechanization, the milch breeds of cattle like Sahiwal must be genetically improved for higher milk production. The existing Goshalas can play an important role in this regard through better management and planning provided and supported well by the State Government.</p> <p>c) Elite buffalo germplasm should be propagated through embryo transfer, cloning and use of sexed semen of Murrah</p>

	<p>bulls to produce more females. For this, Bull mother farms to be established to provide good pedigree bulls in each cluster of villages. These bulls should be rotated after every 2-3 years to avoid inbreeding.</p> <p>d) The incentives and rewards presently provided for conservation and genetic improvement of Murrah buffalo are to be further increased, especially for high milk producing animals (20 kg and above).</p>
7.2 Need for a Livestock Development Mission	<p>For increasing livestock, fish and poultry production, there is an urgent need for Livestock Mission (LM) preferably at the Central or at State level. The LM should plan and oversee various development schemes related to livestock, poultry and fisheries, namely feed and fodder development, prevention and control of diseases, biodiversity conservation, breeding policy and strategies; processing, value addition and marketing of livestock produce.</p>
7.3 Meeting the feed and fodder requirements	<p>Farmers invariably felt that they are not getting good quality seeds of fodder crops, whereas about 60-70 per cent expenditure for livestock rearing is mainly on account of feed and fodder. Unfortunately, fodder seed production and supply is a grey area between the Department of Animal husbandry and the Department of Agriculture. Also fodder seed is a low priority for Haryana Seed Development Corporation (HSDC). Another unfortunate concern is that fodder seed is invariably not entering in to seed production chain. Hence, it is proposed that either HSDC undertakes defined responsibility or we establish on priority a Fodder Seed Development Corporation and involve the State Agricultural University/ Veterinary University and Government Livestock Farms for the production of breeder and foundation seeds. At the same time, there is an urgent need to involve progressive farmers and the private seed</p>

	sector to produce certified seeds of improved varieties/ hybrids of fodder crops, which must be linked with specified indents confirmed in advance by the Department of Animal Husbandry through a Rolling Plan. In such cases, subsidy for seed production should also be made available to the fodder seed producing farmers and the private seed companies.
7.4 Incentives to promote dairy farming	To make dairy farming a profitable enterprise, incentives like removal of value added tax (VAT) from feed and feed ingredients (bran, cakes, mineral mixture), electricity rates for small dairy plants to be on par with agriculture, low rate of interest on loan (3-4 per cent), at least 50 per cent subsidy on small dairy equipments and animal vaccines be provided. In future, all dairy farms receiving incentives from the Government should be mandated to have <i>Gobar</i> /Biogas plants.
7.5 Consideration of low fat and SNF content in the milk from cross bred cows	Dairy farmers invariably feel that dairying is less profitable enterprise due to low price of milk. Hence, there is need to fix MSP for milk and also the minimum standard of fat and solids-not-fat (SNF) be revised downward from the present levels of 4 per cent and 8.6 per cent to that of 3.2 per cent and 8.2 per cent, respectively since these contents are always low in the milk of cross-bred cows.
7.6 Generating income from unproductive farm animals	Mewat region of the State can be notified as “Meat Development Zone” supported well by institutional infrastructure and programs aiming at meat production, especially from male buffaloes, goats, sheep and poultry. This will indirectly solve the problem of feed and fodder scarcity in the State. Also the existing Slaughter House near village Parigaon can be converted in to modern abattoir. Once meat processing is undertaken on modern lines, Haryana can target for meat exports to Middle-East and adjoining

	countries for fetching higher income to the livestock farmers. It will also ensure inclusive growth in Mewat region.
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8 Fish Farming

Fish farming in Haryana is currently at take off stage but with a great development potential in terms of creating gainful rural employment, income and productive utilization of land and water resources. It is growing faster than any other agricultural enterprise. It, therefore, requires major policy support by the Government for yet faster growth.

Concerns/ Issues	Possible Options/ Suggestions for Action
8.1 Water and electricity charges to be on par with agriculture.	Water charges for fish farming are much higher than those for agriculture use by the farmers. This makes it a less viable proposition. To make it a successful and viable enterprise, both water and electricity charges for fish farming be kept on par with those in agriculture through appropriate policy intervention.
8.2 Natural calamities relief measures needed also for fish farming	There is no provision of natural calamities relief measures to fish farmers against floods, cyclones, diseases etc. Hence, these natural calamities are also to be treated on par for providing compensation to fish farmers.
8.3 Saline aquaculture	Brackish water in highly saline and water logged areas can be effectively and profitably used for brackish water aquaculture for both fish and shrimp farming. Sub-surface water can be pumped into ponds, using shallow tube wells. Thus, scope of brackish aquaculture in the arid region of Haryana exists, which needs to be promoted through needed incentives and scientific breakthroughs.
8.4 Comprehensive water bodies leasing policy for fisheries and agriculture development	A comprehensive leasing policy for the leasing of all public water bodies for fisheries irrespective of ownership should be developed in Haryana. Minimum lease rent to be determined through an objective, fair and transparent mechanism.

8.5 Certification of fish seed and fish feed quality	Quality seed and feed are the most critical inputs in aquaculture. Lack of both product as well as process standards have given rise to sub-standard and dubious seed and feed in market. Policy and legal instruments should be put in place with mandatory provisions for registration of all the seed producers, feed manufacturers and suppliers/traders as well as certification of the seed and feed quality.
8.6 Introduction and regulation of exotic species	There should be a clearly defined policy statement on introduction of exotics as well as regulation of its culture. Precautionary principle and scientific evidence should govern regulatory decisions while reconciling aquaculture developmental needs as well as biodiversity conservation requirement.

9 Issues of General Importance

Some of the Common concerns expressed by the farmers regarding overall agricultural development, which require policy decision by the Government, are listed below for due consideration.

Concerns/ Issues	Possible Options/ Suggestions for Action
9.1 Creation of ' Kisan Vikas Kendra ' for knowledge dissemination/ extension services	Farmers are in dire need of having access to proper knowledge for their multifarious activities. Moreover, they do have both time and fund constraints. Hence farmers would like to have a single window system for extension services. Somehow, field officers, representing different disciplines, sit at different places and often are busy in their field duties with the result farmers generally find it difficult to contact them. Hence, there is an urgent need to have a small office building at one place in each block to begin with, which could be called "Kisan Vikas Kendra". Alternatively, since there are Veterinary Hospitals in each block, the same can be used by adding few rooms, where needed. This Kisan Vikas Kendra be also closely linked with Krishi Vigyan

	<p>Kendra (KVK). Also information and communication technology (ICT) facilities need to be provided in these offices.</p> <p>Another important issue flagged by many farmers was about strengthening of Kisan Clubs in each district. Currently, these Clubs do not have any facility such as office space and minimum funds to run their activities and organize regular meetings. Hence, empowering these Kisan Clubs will go a long way in understanding their problems and find possible solutions locally through close interactions with district level authorities. These Clubs could also be provided with technical literature, CDs on new technologies, package of practices etc.</p>
<p>9.2 Positions of Director General/ Director of the agriculture and allied disciplines must be headed by technical cadre officers only</p>	<p>Since agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry & dairy, fisheries and agro-forestry are highly technical subjects; the senior most positions in the State must be headed by the technical cadre senior officers only. This will harmonize and internalize technical knowledge with governance, sustainability/ continuity and much needed moral boosting of the field staff. The subject being an important policy matter, Government directives are required to be issued to amend relevant recruitment rules for all these Heads of Department positions with immediate effect.</p>
<p>9.3 Creation of market Cess Fund for strengthening agriculture research and development</p>	<p>It will be a progressive step if State Government introduces a levy of minimum of 1 per cent Cess on all agricultural commodities being marketed in the State. Such a fund will greatly strengthen agricultural research and development. The fund so created could be used as a competitive grant scheme by an independent organization for supporting important projects in priority areas and for some innovative initiatives that are either research or development related.</p>

<p>9.4 Convergence and Coordination mechanism for all agriculture development - related activities in the State</p>	<p>A Mechanism must be developed for convergence of various schemes/ programmes on agriculture development that are being run by different Ministries/ Department. It is, therefore, essential to create a high level State Coordination Committee to have an oversight role and periodic review of all agricultural development related programs. Such a high level committee must be established soon under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister/Chief Secretary. It will help in ensuring proper integration and effective implementation of all development-related activities for the overall benefit to the farmers of Haryana.</p>
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Annexure I

Proceedings of the Meeting with Farmers of Hisar Division on Various Issues Related to Agriculture

Date : Nov.08, 2010
Venue : College of Basic Science,
CCS, HAU, Hisar

The Haryana Kisan Ayog (HKA) conducted meeting with the officials of state departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and CCSHAU, Hisar by involving large number of farmers from Hisar division. The meeting was chaired by Dr. R.S. Paroda, Hon'ble Chairman of Haryana Kisan Ayog. Sh. Roshan Lal, IAS, Finance Commissioner and Principal Secretary Agriculture, Government of Haryana & Dr. K.S. Khokhar, Vice Chancellor, CCS HAU, Hisar participated in the meeting. Dr. R.S. Dalal, Member Secretary, Haryana Kisan Ayog welcomed different dignitaries and farmers of Hisar division and also explained them the terms of reference and objectives of Haryana Kisan Ayog. Hon'ble Chairman and members of HKA also expressed their views by covering various issues, problems and challenges faced by different sectors of Agriculture within the Haryana state, country and world over. Thereafter, the Member Secretary invited the farmers to express their problems and probable solutions both orally and in writing on the performa designed and circulated by HKA to every participant attending this meeting. During this interactive meeting several issues related to different sectors of agriculture were discussed and following points emerged for consideration of Haryana Kisan Ayog and their subsequent follow up action by the Government of Haryana and concerned departments and Institutions located within the State.

I ISSUES RELATED TO FIELD CROPS

1. Non Awareness About Latest Agriculture Technology by Farmers

Suggestions of Farmers

- Strengthening of extension system of Department of Agriculture and CCS HAU, Hisar
- Training of village youth with the designation as Krishi Sevak

- Inclusions of Agriculture subject at high school level
- Strengthening and modernizing Agricultural extension system by connecting Agriculture Institutions, Agriculture Department and farmers in the IT mode. There should be specific space for farmers for informing their problems and receiving proper solutions from the officers of Agriculture Department

Suggestions of Kisan Ayog

- A detailed simple software covering different issues related to field crops and medicinal plants using Hindi and English languages and photographs have been developed by some of the SAUS' which can be developed/modified by CCS, HAU, Hisar as per requirement of Haryana State.

2. Availability of Quality Seeds of Crops

- Non availability of good quality seed of recommended varieties in time at cheaper rates. The major problem has been reported about the seeds of Bt Cotton and Hybrids of field crops.
- There is a mis-match between packages of practices recommended by CCS HAU, Hisar and literature /varieties available in the market with dealers and Government Departments.

Suggestions of Farmers

- The CCS HAU should develop its own Bt varieties/Hybrids of field crops.
- Interested farmers/youth should be trained for developing Bt Cotton and hybrids themselves under the supervision/guidance of the experts from CCS HAU, Hisar.
- The package of practices should be revised in consultation with the different line Department of Agriculture/Horticulture for their distribution to the farmers.

3. Supply of Farm Chemicals (fertilizers and pesticides)

- Non-availability of good quality inputs in time to the farmers.
- Additions of other inputs with the inputs demanded by the farmers. For example supply of packets of Sulphur along with DAP by certain dealers.

- No subsidy on micro-nutrients to the farmers by the Government of Haryana.

Suggestions of Farmers

- The licenses should be given for the sale of farm inputs to Agriculture graduates.
- The Department of Agriculture should keep a watch on quality and other malpractices prevalent in the market for the sale of different inputs by the private dealers.
- There should be heavy punishment to control various malpractices related to supply of substandard and spurious inputs to the farmers.
- There should be proper display board in the shop of private dealers about the details of chemicals along with telephone numbers of officers of Department of Agriculture.
- The officers of Agriculture Department and Scientists should be given power for taking the samples of various agriculture inputs available with dealers for testing their quality.
- All information about the availability of different inputs by the dealers should be available on line for the information of the farmers.

Suggestions of Kisan Ayog

- The Farmers are advised to take proper receipt from the dealers while purchasing the seeds, fertilizers and pesticides and report promptly to the officers of the Department of Agriculture, for prompt action in case of any complaint in this regard.
- There should be free testing of the quality of fertilizers and pesticides by strengthening/developing more quality testing labs at block/District/KVK levels by the Department of Agriculture and CCSHAU, Hisar.

4. Issues Related to Soil Health

- There is deterioration in the fertility status of soil due to indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and irrigation by brackish waters.
- There is a reduction in the organic matter contents, population of earth worms, friendly insects and microbes in the soils.

Suggestions of Farmers

- There is a suggestion to start Vedic agriculture by using different methods/organics and create awareness among farmers for organic farming and use of bio-control measures for insect pest control.
- There should be increased use of FYM, organic manure, green manure, non-burning of crop residues and follow up proper crop rotations with the inclusion of legume/green manure in cereal-cereal rotation.

Suggestions of Kisan Ayog

- There is a need to develop other sources of alternate energy (biogas, plantation of multipurpose trees for fodder and fuel) to save cow dung for composting/vermi-composting.
- There should be proper simple facilities for certification at Panchayat/ Block level and marketing of organic produce for getting remunerative prices in the market.

5. Issues Related to Supply and Availability of Irrigation Water

- There is acute shortage of irrigation water in the canals and depletion of good quality ground waters.
- There is a shortage of electricity (just 4 hours in the villages) and no time schedule for the supply of electricity for the lifting of irrigation water.
- The purpose of watershed in certain rainfall deficit areas/reasons is totally defeated due to partially deterioration of soil health because of leveling and exposing of less fertile sub-soil on the surface due to soil displacement. There is often problem of non-availability of rainfall water in adequate quantity for conservation, storage and recharging of ground water. Thus, this twin problem has defeated the very purpose of watershed despite heavy investment of Govt. funds. These areas are facing the problem of low agriculture production and acute shortage of water due to land leveling or not properly developing the watersheds by following the basic principles.

Suggestions of Farmers

- There should be timely availability of adequate quantity of good quality canal

water on priority basis at the time of sowing and critical stages of crops growth.

- There should be proper technical know how for proper treatment and conjunctive use of brackish waters.
- The supply of electricity for irrigation should be 8 to 10 hours continuously during day time by following preannounced schedule for the information of farmers.
- There should be shift from flood system of irrigation to sprinkler and drip irrigation or properly designed furrow irrigation in widely spaced crops.
- There should be proper development of watershed in rainfall deficit area on scientific basis to take care of soil water conversation and also the availability of drinking water on priority basis in the villages.
- Some farmers have suggested diversion of some water shed development funds for boring of deep tube wells to lift the good quality water for irrigation and drinking purposes.
- The vegetable growers demanded assured water supply in canal command areas with adequate subsidy for the construction of individual water storage tanks.
- They also demanded a dam on Ghaggar River, recharge of ground water and pumping of seepage water around canal banks for augmentation of water supply in water deficit remote areas.
- There should be encouragement for laser leveling and adequate subsidy for high tech irrigation for covering more area under irrigation.

II ISSUES RELATED TO ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND ANIMAL HEALTH

- There is shortage of high yielding milch animals and availability of adequate number of Vets, for proper animal's health care, particularly in remotely located villages.
- The animals mostly suffer from longer dry period, repeated heat and infertility problems and diseases such as mastitis, FMD and H.S. in several parts of the Hisar division.

- There is no proper health care and clinical examination of stray bulls and details about their pedigree and thus they are great hurdle in providing high milk yielding followers.
- There is no area specific programme for rearing different types of animals following clusters approach i.e. area specific programmes for developing holistic approach for breed improvement of cows, buffaloes, sheep, goats, fisheries, piggeries, and poultry and as well as for their rearing, animal health care and processing of milk and animal products and their proper marketing.
- The animal husbandry is becoming a less profitable enterprise due to low price of milk in the villages.

Suggestions of Farmers

- There is need to strengthen clinical and hospital facilities with adequate staff of Vets. in the villages.
- Availability of seeds of high yielding fodder varieties of different fodder crops need greater emphasis to help the dairy farmers.
- There is a need to create more awareness of proper treatment for reducing dry period and infertility problem in milch animals.
- Proper health care facilities to control mastitis and timely vaccination (twice vaccination per year) for controlling F.M.D. and H.S.
- Proper checking of stray bulls and castration of undesirable ones.
- Proper training of rural youths for A.I. and availability of quality semen for making A.I. a success in cattle and buffaloes.
- Procurement of milk at fat percent basis in the villages e.g. Milk with 6% fat is sold @ Rs.32/liter and the same milk should be procured at least @ Rs.27 per liter from the milk producers.
- The subsidy provided for purchasing buffaloes should be increased from Rs.30000/- at present to Rs.60000/- to Rs. 80000/- per buffalo by Government of Haryana.
- There is need to have proper insurance of different animals (buffaloes, cows,

goat, sheep, camel, poultry) at cheaper rates.

- There is need to develop area specific clusters for different types of animal wealth (i.e. Cows, buffaloes, goats, piggeries, poultry, fisheries etc.) with proper awareness and facilities for improvement of breeds, their management, value addition and marketing of different milk and animal products.

III ISSUES RELATED TO VEGETABLE AND HORTICULTURE CROPS

- There is shortage of quality planting material, especially for horticulture crops.
- Straw berry farmers importing quality planting material from California through Pune farmers sometimes don't get desired planting material due to difference in the agro-climatic conditions of Pune, Hisar and California.
- The hybrid seeds of vegetable crops are very costly, and sometimes farmers are also cheated by the companies/dealers in getting desired quality planting material and agro-chemicals.
- Some farmers reported the damage of their crops by nematodes, mosaic and other pests and diseases.
- There is a problem of damage of crops by the blue bull and other wild animals.
- Almost all growers mentioned substantially low sale price of their produce in mandies, while consumers on the other hand pay 3-4 times more price for vegetable and horticulture produce to retailers and thus the major share of the profit is cornered by the middle men.
- All farmers reported the problems of damage of their perishable nature of commodities due to the paucity of cold storage and processing units nearby producing areas.
- There is also few specialized mandies for vegetable and horticulture crops.
- Farmers need adequate financial support and subsidy on water storage tanks and drip system of irrigation for High Tech. Horticulture.

Suggestions of Farmers

- The SAU and Horticulture Department should strengthen their research efforts

to provide desired planting material to the growers. They should also be helped in controlling different pest and diseases by developing resistant varieties and cheaper control measures for supply of quality produce at low cost in the market.

- The strawberry farmers demanded that CCS HAU, Hisar should help them in importing and proper testing of the adaptability and productivity of strawberry material of California under the agro-climatic condition of Haryana.
- The development of proper marketing, storage, processing and packaging facilities within Haryana is the need of hour to help the vegetable and horticulture growers.
- There should be adequate subsidy on water storage and fertigation tanks to follow High Tech Horticulture and subsidy for fencing to control the damage of their crops by the blue bull and other wild animals.
- There should be two experts (one for horticulture and another for vegetable) in each district.

IV ISSUES RELATED TO AGRICULTURE FINANCE AND MARKETING

- There is complicated procedure for making KCC cards. The bank's mortgage their whole farm land irrespective of the amount of credit given to the farmers.
- There are agents and middle men who cheat the farmers due to complex procedure of credit delivery.
- Most of the nationalized banks do not fulfill the target fixed by NABARD for credit to farmers.
- The farmers are also not given the full amount of granted loan. It is reported that Rs.1000/- per lac loan are directly deducted by some banks without explaining any reasons for such deductions.
- The farmers don't get the desired price of vegetable and horticulture produce. They get much lower price in the absence of MSP for major vegetable and horticulture crops.
- There are also complaints of reducing the price of seed cotton in the Ginning

Factory after the finalization of rates of their produce in the Mandies.

- Farmers are not getting the full benefits of the subsidies announced to them for different purpose by the Govt. specially to purchase the various machines and agricultural implements.
- They are also not happy with the behavior of bankers and other officers related to the delivery of loan and subsidies.
- The interest rates on various loans are reported on higher side than demanded @ 3-4% by the farmers.
- Farmers also have reported about the paucity of cold storage, processing, and packing and proper marketing facilities for different produce, especially the perishable commodities.
- The broiler poultry farmers reported lot of malpractices in getting chicks for broiler purpose by private hatcheries in Haryana.
- They also requested to hold state level programme for poultry farmers in Karnal for discussing various issues and problems faced by small broiler poultry farms in Haryana.

Suggestions of Farmers

- There should be simplified procedure for granting loans at 3% interest rate with full transparency.
- The banks should grant loans to needy farmers as per limit fixed by NABARD.
- There should be no middle men for facilitating loans and the farmers should get full amount without any deduction by the banks through simplified procedures.
- There should be proper pass books for each farmer and subsidy granted by the Govt. should go directly in their respective accounts.
- There is need to device simplified procedure for making KCC, and only that proportion of land should be mortgaged which is essential as per amount of loan granted to individual farmers.
- The farmers demanded reforms in mandies to get rid of middle men and commission agents and proper cold storage facilities for their perishables.

- They also demanded profitable MSP for major vegetables and horticulture crops.
- Some farmers suggested developing ITC e-chopal concept for selling their produce in Haryana as substitute for mandies.
- There is a need to develop specialized mandies for vegetable and horticulture produce, poultry products and more cold storage, processing and packaging infrastructure facilities supported by marketing intelligence.

V OTHER SUGGESTIONS OF FARMERS

- There is need to have complete ban on the use of polythene, burning of wheat and paddy straw in the fields.
- There is a need to strengthen the “Kisan Clubs” with technical and financial support.
- There is need to develop proper cow dung based small bio-gas units, composting facilities and alternate source of energy to stop the burning of cow dung.
- There is a need to develop proper schooling facilities in villages at par with urban schools for better education of the children of farmers and other rural communities.
- There is need to re-look on the grant of subsidy on rotavator as it compress the soil and requiring big tractors; the Turbo/happy seeder is a better substitute of rotavator.
- The farmers suggested developing small machines and tools for helping small and marginal farmers.
- The MGNREGA programme should be regulated by stopping its operation during peak sowing (September to November) and harvesting time of field crops (Feb. to April) to ensure the availability of labour for major agriculture operations.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks of Hon’ble members and Chairman of HKA and thanks by member secretary of HKA to the dignitaries, farmers and other guests present and participated in this meeting.

Annexure II

Proceedings of the meeting with Farmers of Ambala Division on Various Issues Related to Agriculture

Date : Dec.05, 2010
Venue : R. K. Sadan Auditorium
Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra

The Haryana Kisan Ayog (HKA) conducted meeting with the officials of the state departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and CCSHAU, Hisar involving large number of farmers from Ambala division. The meeting was chaired by Dr. R.S. Paroda, Hon'ble Chairman of Haryana Kisan Ayog. Sh. Roshan Lal, IAS, Finance Commissioner and Principal Secretary Agriculture, Government of Haryana (Member, HKA) and Dr. K.S. Khokhar, Vice Chancellor, CCS HAU, Hisar (Member, HKA), Dr. R.S. Dalal, (Member Secretary, HKA) also shared the dais along with Hon'ble Chairman. Dr. Dalal welcomed different dignitaries and farmers of Ambala division. He also explained the terms of reference and objectives of Haryana Kisan Ayog. Hon'ble Chairman and members of HKA also expressed their views by covering different issues, problems and challenges faced by different sectors of Agriculture within the Haryana state, country and world over. Thereafter, the Member Secretary invited the farmers to express their problems and probable solutions both orally and in writing on the performa designed and circulated by HKA to every participant attending this meeting. During the meeting several issues were discussed and following points emerged for consideration of Haryana Kisan Ayog and their subsequent follow up action by the Govt. of Haryana and concerned Departments and Institutions located within the State.

I ISSUES RELATED TO FIELD CROPS

1. Little Awareness about Modern Technology to Farmers of Remote Areas

Suggestions of Farmers

- Strengthening of extension system of Department of Agriculture and CCS HAU, Hisar.

- Agriculture as compulsory subject at High School level.
- Progressive farmers and teachers of Biological sciences should be given short term training of agriculture.
- Services of retired agricultural experts and N.G.O may also be utilized for strengthening extension activities.
- Visits of farmers should be conducted within and outside the country to learn about modern agricultural technology on Govt. expenses.
- Farmers should be trained in small agro-based industries.
- The farmers Committee at Panchayat, Block and District level should be formed and their monthly meeting/training should be organized by the Department of Agriculture and Directorate of Extension Education CCSHAU, Hisar.

2. Supply of Inputs

- Non-availability of quality seeds and others inputs especially fertilizers in time.
- Higher costs of seeds and supply of unwanted packets of sulphur along with fertilizer (urea) bags by private dealers to farmers.

Suggestions of Farmers

- The required amount of quality seeds, fertilizers and pesticides should be made available before sowing time of crops to farmers.
- The CCSHAU, Hisar should develop its own hybrids of different crops.
- Agricultural graduates should be given licenses to ensure the availability of quality seeds, fertilizers and pesticides to the needy farmers.
- Progressive farmers should be given adequate training by the KVK's for the production of hybrid seeds.

2. Issue Related to Soil Health

- There is a problem of soil compaction, re-sodification, deterioration of soil health and decline in productivity per unit of input progressively every year.
- There is no adequate soil testing facility in remotely located villages for both macro and micro-nutrients.

Suggestions of Farmers

- There should be adequate mobile laboratory facilities to cover remote areas for testing fertility status of soils in different parts of Haryana.
- The farmers should be given adequate training and subsidy to prepare composts and vermi-compost and use of bio-fertilizers to improve soil health.
- There should be adequate supply of gypsum at subsidized cost to reclaim sodic soils/sodic waters and control re-sodification.
- Every farmer should be provided a “Soil Health Passbook” with detailed entry of physical, chemical and biological status of his holding and its recheck at regular interval.

4. Non-Availability of Electricity for Irrigation

Suggestions of Farmers

- Majority of farmers desired non-disrupted supply of electricity for 10-12 hours during day time.
- Electricity should be made available on priority basis for pre-sowing irrigation during sowing time.

5. Issues Related to Sugarcane Crops and Suggestions of Farmers

- The sugarcane should be lifted from the fields as per pattern of Gujarat with all expenses born for harvesting and transportation of sugarcane by sugarcane Mills.
- Lifting of sugarcane in October of ratoon crops by sugarcane Mills to facilitate timely sowing of rabi crops.
- More research and demonstration should be carried at different places to guide the farmers about the suitable intercrops in autumn planting/ratoon crops of sugarcane.

6. Issues Related to Direct Seeded Rice and Suggestions of Farmers

- There is about 40% saving of irrigation water in direct seeded rice. However, there is problem of weeds, especially, Makara grass in direct seeded rice. This

needs urgent attention of research workers.

7. Issues related to integrated farming systems

- Some of the farmers have developed their own integrated farming system models.

Example

- Sh. Guru Charan Singh, Fatehgarh, District Yamunanagar owns about 25 acres of land and cultivates field crops on 22 acres land along with fisheries on 1.5 acres of pond. He also keeps 12 Milch animals on this farm. The farm is self sufficient, remunerative, employment generating. He produces about 90 quintals fish per annum, especially grass carp, which can be feed by green fodder and leaves of banana and weeds available on farm. He also grows turmeric as intercrop in Poplar plantation along with boxes of honey bees for honey production.

Suggestions of Farmers

- There is a need of other farmers to visit integrated farms of such innovative farmers within and outside Haryana State.
- There is need to develop location specific integrated farming system models for other areas of state to help the farmers.

8. Issues Related to Organic Farming and Suggestions of Farmers

- Some of the farmers are following organic farming for the production of baby corn, mushrooms and other crops. However, there is no simple procedure for certification and proper marketing of such organic produce.
- The farmers should be trained to prepare effective bio-pesticides on their own to follow organic farming.
- There is a subsidy on chemical fertilizers, but there is no subsidy on organic manures, green manures, vermi-compost and bio-fertilizers. There should be adequate subsidy on organic manures and bio-fertilizers to encourage the organic farming and integrated nutrient management.
- Farmers also need training and financial support to prepare quality organic manure, including alternate source of energy (Gobar Gas, Solar energy) and

plantation of multipurpose trees for fodder and fuel wood to save cow-dung.

II ISSUES RELATED TO ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND SUGGESTIONS OF FARMERS

- There is a need of formation of Animal Rearing Societies in every village and supply pedigree bulls to such constituted societies and /or supply of good quality semen and AI facilities in every village.
- Supply of good quality fodder seeds and adequate training for upkeep of fodder for lean period.
- There is need to provide animal health care facilities in each village.
- There is paucity of high yielding milch animals and adequate numbers of Vets availability for proper animal health care particularly in remotely located villages.
- The animals mostly suffer from longer dry period, repeated heating and infertility problems and diseases such as mastitis, FMD and H.S. in several parts of Haryana.
- There is no proper health care and clinical examination of stray bulls and details about their progenies and thus they are great hurdle in providing high milk yielding followers.
- The animal husbandry is becoming a less profitable enterprise due to low price of milk procured in the villages. There is need to fix remunerative MSP of milk on fat percentage basis.

III ISSUES RELATED TO VEGETABLE AND HORTICULTURE AND SUGGESTIONS OF FARMERS

- There is a great qualitative and quantitative loss to vegetables and horticulture crops due to non-availability of cold storage and processing facilities.
- There is paucity of good planting material and higher prices for hybrid seeds of vegetable crops by private companies and dealers.
- There is lack of adequate knowledge about pests and diseases and their proper control measures in vegetable and horticulture crops.

- There is a problem of proper marketing and great difference between prices received by the farmers in the mandies and paid by consumers.
- There is inadequate knowledge about the international quality standard and packaging.
- There is lack of knowledge about net house/green house technology in the villages.
- There is problem of diseases in mushroom cultivation and inadequate electric power supply to mushroom growers.
- There is lack of pukka farm roads for round the year vegetable supply by farmers to market.
- There is damage of vegetable and horticulture crops by wild animals, cold and other natural calamities.

Suggestions of Farmers

- All major vegetables and horticulture produce should be covered by MSP
- There should be more modern mandies for vegetable and horticulture produce with cold storage and primary processing and packaging facilities in Haryana.
- There should be more research by the University for Quality Hybrid Seed Production of vegetable crops and availability of quality planting material of horticulture crops.
- There is need to strengthen extension facilities to train the farmers in the field of high tech horticulture and better control of pests, diseases and quality seed production of vegetables and planting material of horticulture crops.
- The farm roads should be made pukka with the financial assistances of Government.
- Progressive farmers should also be provided proper exposure to foreign markets and adequate training about quality standards and proper packaging and marketing intelligence for export of horticulture produce outside India.
- The vegetable and horticulture crops should also be under insurance cover in case of damage by wild animals and natural calamities.

IV ISSUES RELATED TO AGRICULTURAL FINANCING AND MARKETING AND SUGGESTIONS OF THE FARMERS

- There should be more agro-based industries of agricultural produce within the state.
- There should be better availability of small processing units with adequate subsidy to help the small farm holders in the villages.
- There should be more tax on the produce imported from overseas market in India to protect the interest of Indian farmers.
- The farmers should be provided profitable MSP of their all agricultural produce, including the milk.
- Other issues are similar to those reported in the Hisar Division's Meeting.

V OTHER ISSUES AND SUGGESTIONS OF FARMERS

- In case of the damage of crops by natural calamities, some interim financial support should be provided immediately i.e. prior to final assessment of damage by state / central level committees for final financial help given to farmers.
- There should be formation of Land Use Board to guide the planners and farmers.
- There should be mission oriented programme to control the population of blue bulls in the state.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks of Hon'ble members and Chairman of HKA and thanks by Member Secretary of HKA to the dignitaries, farmers and other guests present and participated in this meeting.

Annexure III

Proceedings of the meeting with Farmers of Rohtak Division on Various Issues Related to Agriculture

Date : January 22, 2011
Venue : Institute of Hotel and Tourism Management
Conference Hall, MDU, Rohtak

The Haryana Kisan Ayog (HKA) had organized an interface with farmers and the officials of the state departments of Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry of Rohtak Division and the Senior Scientist of CCSHAU, Hisar. The meeting was chaired by Dr. R.S. Paroda, Chairman, Haryana Kisan Ayog. Sh. Roshan Lal, IAS, Finance Commissioner and Principal Secretary Agriculture, Government of Haryana and Dr. K.S. Khokhar, Vice-Chancellor, CCS HAU, both Members of HKA and Dr. R.S. Dalal, Member Secretary, also attended. Dr. Dalal welcomed the dignitaries and farmers of Rohtak division. He also explained the terms of reference and objectives of Haryana Kisan Ayog to the participants. The Chairman and the members of HKA also expressed their views on different issues, problem and challenges faced by different sectors of agriculture in the state. Thereafter, the farmers were requested to express their problems and probable solutions both orally and in writing on the performa already circulated to all the participants attending the meeting. During the meeting, the following points had emerged needing subsequent follow up action by the Govt. of Haryana and the concerned Departments /Institutions located within the State.

I ISSUES RELATED TO FIELD CROPS

1. The Government of Haryana has banned early transplanting of rice including the Indri Block of Karnal where there is high water table and timely sown crop of paddy is adversely affected by flood water from Yamuna River. The direct seeded rice (DSR) also requires early planting for proper crop establishment before onset of monsoon.
2. There is a considerable decline in soil health and factor productivity in rice-wheat system. Thus, decrease in unit weight of produce per unit of nutrient application and increase in the cost of cultivation.

3. There are some encouraging results from IPNM and organic farming, but there is inadequate research support and little mention about it in the package of practices of CCSHAU, Hisar.
4. There is shortage of good quality canal water in the Jhajjar district, while ground water is brackish which affects the soil health and crop productivity adversely.
5. There is a problem of high water table and soil salinity in the Rohtak district which affects adversely the productivity of field crops.
6. There is a problem of blast disease of paddy in the Rohtak district.
7. There is always shortage of quality seed, fertilizers, pesticides, gypsum and other inputs and their availability in time to the farmers.
8. The crops are damaged badly by blue bulls and other natural calamities in the whole division.
9. There is shortage of labour during sowing and harvesting time and non-availability of small machine and implements and subsidy thereon to help the small and marginal farmers.
10. The farmers also demanded the package of practices in IT mode, and also organization of the short courses on repair and maintenance of agricultural implements, mushroom production, vermi-compost, medicinal plants and other agro-based enterprises.

Suggestions of Farmers

1. There should not be any ban on early planting of rice in the Indri Block of Karnal. The direct seeded rice also requires early seeding for better establishment of crop before rainy season. Thus, there is a need of some changes in the policy of Govt., keeping in view these problems faced by the farmers in the Indri Block of Karnal and direct seeded rice in other districts of the division.
2. There is a need to monitor the soil health by regular soil testing and to suggest suitable measures for maintaining good soil health (increased use of organic manure, green manure, bio-fertilizers, incorporation of mungbean crop in the standing crop of wheat, non-burning of straw and its proper incorporation by turbo seeder) and high crop productivity on long-term basis in rice-wheat

system.

3. There is a need of more research on IPNM and organic farming, and modification in the package of practices accordingly. It will also require some concrete measures for providing alternate sources of energy (biogas units, solar energy, plantation of multipurpose trees, etc.) to save the cow dung for organic manure and composting for encouraging organic farming and IPNM system.
4. Farmers need specific advice for reclamation of problematic soils and waters, as well as conjunctive use of water where good quality canal water is available, but only after proper soil and water testing of individual farmers.
5. The farmers of high water table areas need also proper advice for drainage/bio-drainage along with suitable agro-forestry system supported by concrete research recommendation after field testing.
6. There is a need to provide subsidy for fencing to control the damage of crops by blue bulls and as well as their population by the castration of male blue bulls.
7. There is a need to make all necessary arrangements for the supply of quality inputs (seed, fertilizers, pesticides) to the farmers at cheaper rates before seeding of the crops. The problem of sub-standard material could be checked to some extent if the agricultural graduates are given licenses for the sale of inputs. Similarly, proper training to self-help groups in the villages for hybrid seed/quality seed production could help the farmers for cheaper and timely availability of quality seeds at their doorsteps.
8. There is a problem of 'Makara' grass in direct seeded rice and frequent appearance of blast disease in rice in the Rohtak district which need attention of the research workers of CCSHAU, Hisar.
9. The MNREGA program should be suspended when there is peak demand of labour at sowing and harvesting of important crops.
10. There is an urgent need to prepare package of practices in IT mode and organization of various agro-based courses including repair and maintenance of agricultural machines/implements and availability of such information in IT mode.

11. There is need to develop small machines, tools and implements, especially bullock drawn/or to provide adequate number of Agro-service centers to help the small and marginal farmers for timely operations.

II ISSUES RELATED TO ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING

1. There is shortage of Veterinarians to help the farmers for tackling different diseases (Mastitis, repeated heating, FMD, Thesarasis, Brucellosis etc.) in the villages.
2. Low success rate in AI and non-availability of quality pedigree semen for breed improvement of buffaloes and cows.
3. The present subsidy is inadequate to purchase high yielding milch animals.
4. There is acute shortage of quality seed of berseem, oats and hybrid fodder maize for green fodder purpose to dairy farmers.
5. Farmers also demanded proper training to prepare silage and availability of silage making machines on custom hire basis in each district.
6. Farmers also demanded quality mineral mixture through K.V.K. and other Govt. agencies.
7. There is a great difference between rates of milk procured from the farmers and sold to consumers. Some farmers demanded profitable rates on fat% and others on total solid percentage and somatic cell counting basis.
8. The various prizes given for pride animals by Govt. of Haryana should be at par with those given by Punjab Govt.

Suggestions of Farmers

1. Farmers demanded regular service of Vets to control different diseases and also proper vaccination to control thesarusis, brucellosis and other animal diseases in each village.
2. The A.I. services need further strengthening with availability of quality pedigree semen to help the dairy farmers.
3. Farmers demanded subsidy of Rs.60000/- to Rs.80000/- to purchase Murrah buffaloes and high yielding cows.

4. There is need to make self help groups (SHG) to produce quality seeds of different fodder crops, and also their availability through Govt. Departments.
5. Farmers also need proper training and availability of machines on custom hire basis to make silage.
6. There is a need to train the farmers for making cheaper feeds, including the mineral mixture to reduce the cost of milk production, and provide profitable rates for cows and buffalo milk on fat percent or total solid basis.
7. The various prizes given for the pride milch animals (cows and buffaloes) by Government of Haryana should be at par with Punjab Government, i.e. up to Rs.1.00 lac for the best judged animal.

III ISSUES RELATED TO VEGETABLE AND HORTICULTURAL CROPS

1. There are a lot of malpractices in the supply of quality hybrid seeds and planting material of horticultural crops by the private companies and dealers.
2. There is a great price variation in the sale of flowers, vegetable and horticultural crops in the market.
3. Some farmers are engaged in floriculture, but there is a lack of proper training and availability of quality seeds, tubers and other planting materials through Govt. Departments.

Suggestions of Farmers

1. There should be profitable MSP for all major crops including vegetables and Horticultural crops.
2. The University and Department of Horticulture need concerted efforts to do more research and provide training for high tech horticulture as well as ensuring the availability of hybrid seeds and good planting materials of horticulture and floriculture to the needy farmers by CCS HAU, Hisar and State Horticulture Department.
3. There is dire need to develop and popularize the processing and value addition units including cold chain facilities and storage units for perishables in rural

areas.

4. Farmers demanded special mandies with in Haryana for major vegetable, horticulture and floriculture with primary processing and storage facilities well supported through marketing intelligence.

IV ISSUES RELATED TO FINANCING AND MARKETING

1. There exists a disparity between the loans given for agriculture and animal Husbandry to the farmers.
2. There appears to be unethical practices in providing subsidy and credit to the farmers, especially to purchase agricultural machines and implements.
3. The farmers are exploited in the mandies during the sale of vegetables, flowers and fruits by the middle men.
4. There is no MSP for several field, vegetable and horticultural crops.
5. There are higher interest rates on credit given on agricultural implements and dairy units.
6. There are inadequate value addition, processing and storage units, especially for horticulture and vegetable crops.

Suggestions of Farmers

1. There should be profitable MSP (50% more to actual cost of cultivation) for all major field, vegetable and horticulture crops.
2. There should be specialized mandies for vegetables, flowers and fruits with processing and storage units well supported by marketing intelligence.
3. The subsidy given to the farmers should go directly to their respective bank accounts, and there should be full freedom to buy the agricultural implements meeting required specification from any dealer in India.
4. The interest rates on credit for agriculture and dairy units should be at par, and not more than 4% with required transparency.
5. There should be simplified procedure for granting credit for agriculture and dairy units to farmers.

V OTHER SUGGESTIONS

1. The supply of electricity should be for 8-10 hours preferably during the day time or at fixed time during the night, and the electricity rates should be at par for agriculture, horticulture, forestry, dairy units, fishery, mushroom production and other agro-based enterprises.
2. There should be no diversion of fertile agricultural land for non-agricultural use. If there is any need for land by industries for non-agricultural use, they should negotiate directly with the farmers without any involvement of the Government.
3. The agriculture subject should be introduced and taught at the high school level in every village schools.
4. There should be good facilities of schooling in rural areas and at least at par with urban areas.
5. Farmers should be encouraged to use more organic manure and there should be proper training for the preparation of organic manure, bio-fertilizers, bio-pesticides and provision for subsidy on organic manures to promote organic farming.
6. The Kisan Clubs and self-help groups need more support from the Govt. to make them more effective and viable to help the farmers.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the Chairman and thanks by the Member Secretary to the dignitaries, farmers and other guests present.

Annexure IV

Proceedings of the meeting with Farmers of Gurgaon Division on Various Issues Related to Agriculture

Date : February 28, 2011

Venue : Kisan Bhawan, Khandsa Mandi, Gurgaon

The Haryana Kisan Ayog (HKA) had organized an interface with farmers and the officials of the state departments of Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry of Gurgaon Division and the Senior Scientists and officials of CCSHAU, Hisar. The meeting was chaired by Dr. R.S. Paroda, Chairman, Haryana Kisan Ayog. Sh. Ashok Yadav, IAS, Director General Agriculture, Dr. Satyavir, Director General, Horticulture, Government of Haryana and Dr. K.S. Khokhar, Vice-Chancellor, CCS HAU, Member of HKA and Dr. R.S. Dalal, Member Secretary also attended this meeting. Dr. Dalal welcomed the dignitaries and farmers of Gurgaon division. He also explained the terms of reference and objectives of Haryana Kisan Ayog to the participants. The Chairman of HKA and Director General of Agriculture and Horticulture, Govt. of Haryana and the Vice Chancellor of CCS HAU, Hisar also expressed their views on different issues, problems and challenges faced by different sectors of agriculture in the state of Haryana. Thereafter, the farmers were requested to express their problems and probable solutions both orally and in writing on the performa circulated to all the participants attending the meeting. During the meeting, the following points had emerged needing subsequent follow up action by the Govt. of Haryana and the concerned Departments /Institutions located within the State.

I ISSUES RELATED TO FIELD CROPS

1. There is always problem of timely availability of good quality inputs (seed, fertilizers, pesticides, etc.) to the farmers.
2. There is a progressive decline in the factor productivity.
3. Farmers also need proper training and advise to prepare vermi-compost bio-fertilizers and proper guidelines for organic farming as well as integrated nutrient management.
4. There is acute shortage of water for irrigation in the division and farmers also

reported shortage of even drinking water in Mewat area.

5. There is a problem of brackish water in the area which affects the soil health and crop productivity adversely.
6. The wheat crop is often affected by high temperature stress at grain filling stage in the division.
7. There is a problem of infestation of field crops by various pests and diseases. Farmers demanded development and availability of disease and pest resistant varieties and cheaper seed treatment to reduce cost of cultivation.
8. There is a flow of untreated water from industries and sewage water from Delhi which affects the human and animal health and environment very adversely.
9. There is continuous flow of seepage water from the faulty constructed ponds/water bodies on flat lands by erecting 5'-6' high bunds around field boundaries. It has created soil salinity and water logging and damage to the productivity of soil in the large area.
10. There is a heavy infestation of termites in the area, particularly during post rainy season.
11. As reported by the farmers, the whole Aravalli Hill area is infested by aphids, grasshoppers and locusts. Farmers demanded regular monitoring and areal spray of pesticides to control these pests in the Hill areas.
12. There is a problem of crop damage by the blue bulls in the area.

Suggestions of Farmers

1. Timely availability of various inputs (seeds, fertilizers, pesticides) should be ensured to the farmers.
2. Proper seed rolling plans should be prepared by the CCS HAU and Department of Agriculture for timely supply of good quality seeds to the farmers.
3. Self Help groups should be encouraged for multiplication of foundation/hybrid seeds at farmers fields for easy and timely availability of quality seeds at cheaper rates at doorsteps to the farmers.
4. There is a need to monitor soil health through mobile soil testing labs, and

suggest concrete measures to prepare various kinds of organic manures, green manures, bio-fertilizers to maintain good soil health and high productivity of field crops.

5. Farmers also demanded more research on organic farming and integrated nutrient management on scientific basis as per soil tests for different crops.
6. Farmers need specific advice for reclamation of sodic waters, soil salinity and water-logging conditions to bring back these degraded soils under high productivity.
7. There is a need to conduct research to monitor load of microbes and heavy metals in soil, plant and environment system in the area irrigated by sewage water and industrial effluents.
8. There should be proper treatment of sewage water and industrial effluent before its delivery in the fresh water of canals to maintain good soil, plant, animal and human health and clean environment.
9. At least 4-6' deep water storage structure should be constructed as per scientific norms to get rid of extra-seepage and development of soil salinity and water logging conditions in the area.
10. Farmers should be provided adequate training and guidelines for water saving devices such as drip and sprinkler system of irrigation, laser leveling and conservation agriculture.
11. Farmers demanded regular water supply in Palak Minor from Agra Canal and also diversion of excess rain water from Yamuna and other rivers to the water deficit areas of division.
12. There is a need to develop pest, disease and temperature tolerance varieties of wheat and other field crops and cheaper seed treatment measures to help the farmers.
13. Farmers need proper monitoring, advice and help from the Govt. to control termites and areal spray of pesticides to control aphids, grass hoppers and locust's infestation in the Aravalli Hills.
14. There is a need to start sterilization programme to control the population of blue

bulls/provide adequate subsidy on fencing to control the damage of crops from the blue bulls and other wild animals.

II ISSUES RELATED TO ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING

1. Farmers reported inadequate Animal Hospitals and non-availability of competent veterinarians for tackling different diseases of animals.
2. There is acute paucity of green fodder and problem of non-palatability of fodder grown with irrigation of sewage water thrown in the fresh canal water from various industries and effluent.
3. Farmers also demanded the availability of good quality high yielding Murrah buffaloes and Deshi cows like Gir, Sahiwal and Tharparkar.
4. Farmers also demanded the facilities of effective A.I. for Murrah buffaloes.
5. Farmers also reported problem of repeated heating, mastitis, FMD, stomach worms and other diseases of cattle in the division.
6. There is a paucity of mineral mixture and supply of low cost quality animal feed to the farmers.
7. Farmers also reported the adverse effects of excess pesticides present in the fodder on fertility of milch animals and their health.
8. Farmers also reported the slaughter of large number of high yielding dry Murrah buffaloes and cows and environmental related health problems from the slaughter house of Satak Puri.
9. Farmers also need technical knowhow and availability of Emu for Emu farming in the Division.
10. Farmers also demanded non-diversion of common Panchayat land for other purposes.

Suggestions of Farmers

1. There should be more availability of Animal Hospitals and competent veterinarians to help the dairy farmers in tackling different diseases, malnutrition and to provide timely vaccination to the animals on regular basis in each village of the division.

2. There is a need to supply the seeds of good quality fodder crops, training for preparation of cheaper animal feed and mineral mixture to livestock farmers.
3. There should be complete ban on the delivery of untreated sewage and industrial effluent in the fresh canal water to maintain supply of good quality fodder and clean environment.
4. There is need to strengthen the A.I. facilities in buffaloes and cows with pedigree semen, and also ensuring the availability of high yielding Deshi cows like Sahiwal, Tharparkar and Gir to the needy farmers.
5. There is a need to study and monitor the effects of pesticides and heavy metals present in fodders irrigated with sewage water and industrial effluents on animal health.
6. There should be some policy initiatives to control the slaughter of high yielding dry buffaloes and cows in the Satak Puri slaughter house.
7. There is also need to strictly look into the environmental and health problems associated with the presence of slaughter house in the area.
8. There is need of proper technical knowledge, training and supply of Emu to needy farmers for starting Emu farming in the division.

III ISSUES RELATED TO VEGETABLE AND HORTICULTURAL CROPS

1. There are a lot of malpractices in the supply of quality hybrid seeds and planting material of horticultural crops by the private companies and dealers.
2. There is lack of proper training and guidelines for protective cultivation of horticulture and floriculture in the division.
3. There is no proper cold storage and processing infra-structure facilities for perishable vegetable and horticulture crops in the area.
4. Farmers reported acute shortage of water for the cultivation of vegetable and horticultural crops, especially in Mahendragarh and Mewat areas.
5. Farmers also demanded quality seeds of spices.
6. Some farmers are cultivating mint, aloe vera and stevia crops but there is non-

availability of proper planting material and technology for cultivation, processing and marketing of these crops.

7. There is a great price variation in the sale of flowers, vegetable and horticultural crops in the market between the producers and consumers.

Suggestions of Farmers

1. The University and Department of Horticulture need concerted efforts to do more research and provide training for high tech horticulture as well as ensuring the availability of hybrid seeds and good planting materials of horticulture and floriculture to the needy farmers.
2. The farmers interested in the cultivation of mint, aloe vera, spices and stevia need special help for their cultivation, processing and marketing.
3. There should be profitable MSP for all major crops including vegetables and horticultural crops.
4. There is dire need to develop and popularize the processing and value addition units including cold chain facilities and storage units for perishables in rural areas.
5. Farmers demanded special mandies with in Haryana for major vegetable, horticulture and floriculture with primary processing and storage facilities well supported through marketing intelligence.
6. There is need to provide training on water saving devices of drip irrigation along with use of plastic to check soil evaporation and protective cultivation of horticulture crops in water deficit areas.

IV ISSUES RELATED TO FINANCING AND MARKETING

1. There is inadequate subsidy to purchase high yielding buffaloes and cows.
2. Farmers also need subsidy to purchase pesticides and micro-nutrients.
3. Farmers also demanded reasonable subsidy on all agriculture, dairy and horticultural produce.
4. The field crops are often damaged by various natural calamities. However, there is no provision for help to the farmers against frost and high intensity wind and

cyclones.

5. Farmers demanded adequate subsidy (90%) on water saving devices like drip and sprinkler irrigation sets, laser leveler and water tankers.
6. There exists a disparity between the loans given for agriculture and animal husbandry to the farmers.
7. There appears to be unethical practices in providing subsidy and credit to the farmers, especially to purchase agricultural machines and implements.
8. The farmers are exploited in the mandies during the sale of vegetables, flowers and fruits by the middle men.
9. There is no MSP for several field, vegetable and horticultural crops.
10. There are higher interest rates on credit given on agricultural implements and dairy units.
11. Farmers also demanded simplified procedures and availability of Kisan credit cards directly through banks.
12. There is a paucity of value addition, processing and storage units, especially for horticulture and vegetable crops.

Suggestions of Farmers

1. The loan limit to purchase high yielding milch animals should be increased between 60000-80000 rupees per animal.
2. The demand of farmers to purchase herbicides, pesticides and micro-nutrient need attention of Government of Haryana to help the needy farmers.
3. All major agricultural, horticultural and dairy produce should be brought under profitable MSP to help the farmers.
4. The subsidy given to the farmers should go directly to their respective bank accounts, and there should be full freedom to buy the agricultural implements meeting required specification from any dealer in India.
5. The interest rates on credit for agriculture and dairy units should be at par, and not more than 4% with required transparency.
6. There should be simplified procedure for granting credit for agriculture and dairy units to farmers.

7. There is a need to devise simplified procedure for the supply of Kisan credit cards through banks as demanded by the farmers.
8. As demanded by the farmers, the mortgage of part of land needs special consideration by the banks as per quantum of credit delivery and value of land prevalent in the area.

V OTHER SUGGESTIONS

1. There should be proper office of A.D.O.s and their availability on a particular day and place in a week to help in easy assessability to the farmers.
2. As demanded by the farmers, one person of farmers' family should get at least lowest Government job in Haryana.
3. The insurance scheme should consider the village as unit against safe guard of various natural calamities.
4. There should be proper conservation of rain water by providing adequate support for cleaning of the old water structures and provisions for construction of new ones to facilitate proper recharge of ground water in the area.
5. There should be provision of bigger gobar gas plants with adequate subsidy for generation of electricity and cooking gas in the rural areas.
6. The supply of electricity should be for 8-10 hours preferably during the day time or at fixed time during the night, and the electricity rates should be at par for agriculture, horticulture, forestry, dairy units, fishery and other agro-based enterprises.
7. There should be no diversion of fertile agricultural land for non-agricultural use. If there is any need for land by industries for non-agricultural use, they should negotiate directly with the farmers without any involvement of the Government.
8. There should be good facilities of schooling in rural areas and at par with urban areas.
9. The Kisan Clubs and self-help groups need more support from the Govt. to make them more effective and viable to help the farmers.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks of by the Chairman and thanks by the Member Secretary to the dignitaries, farmers and other guests present.

Annexure V

Proceedings of the Meeting of the Progressive Dairy Farmers with Dr. R.S.Paroda, Chairman, Haryana Kisan Ayog

Date : Oct.07,2010

Venue : NDRI, Karnal

A meeting of progressive dairy farmers was convened in the National Dairy Research Institute on 07.10.2010 which was chaired by Dr. R.S. Paroda, Hon'ble Chairman, Haryana Kisan Ayog. Dr. A.K. Srivastava, Director, NDRI, Karnal. Dr. R.S. Dalal, Member Secretary, Haryana Kisan Ayog, Dr. Balbir Singh Veniwal, GM, DMS, Delhi, Dr. Gurmeet Singh, Deputy Director (AH) also attended the meeting. More than 70 progressive dairy farmers of district Karnal, Panipat and Yamunanagar participated.

At the outset Dr. A.K. Srivastava welcomed the Hon'ble Dr. R.S. Paroda, Chairman, Haryana Kisan Ayog and other dignitaries. He appraised the house about the various activities being carried out by the Institute in promoting the Scientific Dairying in the Haryana State in particular and in the country in general to enhance milk production. During the meeting various issues were discussed and the following points emerged out for consideration by the commission.

1. The dairy farmers suggested that the minimum standard of milk in term of fat and SNF should be revised because fat and SNF in high yielding cross breed cows is commonly below the fixed standard and at times farmers face difficulties in selling the milk.
2. The farmers requested that necessary steps should be taken to prevent the sale of adulterated milk, so that farmers selling quality milk may get remunerative price.
3. The farmers requested that the milk procurement rate should be increased so that the farmers are encouraged to increase the milk production.
4. The farmers strongly proposed that the training of the para-vets for duration of nearly 3-4 months be organized regularly by the HAU, Hisar and NDRI, Karnal.
5. The farmers proposed that while erection of the transformers for their tube wells the electricity board has got different norms whereas when the board erects the transformers they do it in a different way so there should be common norms for

both the department as well as for the farmers.

6. Farmers strongly suggested that electricity charges for livestock & dairy sector should be at par to that of agriculture sector.
7. The progressive farmers strongly proposed that like Punjab Government the Government of Haryana should also take initiative in providing the pure semen of HF breed and also should pursue for arranging the sexed semen for elite dairy cattle.
8. Some of the farmers proposed that the loan facilities should be strengthened for the dairy farmers for purchasing the equipments like chaff cutter, milking machine, fodder cutting machine for making silage, purchase of animals and construction of sheds.

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

Annexure VI

Proceedings of the Interaction Meeting between the Honorable Chairman, Haryana Kisan Ayog, Dr. R.S. Paroda and farmers of Selected Districts of Haryana

Date : Oct., 08, 2010
Venue : CSSRI, Karnal

On the eve of the farmer's day at Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal on 08.10.2010, Dr. Paroda had an interaction meeting with the progressive farmers of the districts Karnal, Kurukshetra, Panipat, Jind, Hisar, Sonapat, Rohtak and Sirsa. Besides 60 farmers including few office bearers of the Farmers Clubs, the meeting was attended by all Heads of Divisions of CSSRI, Karnal, OIC, RRS, IARI, Karnal, Head, KVK, NDRI, Karnal and selected scientists of CSSRI, DWR and IARI regional station Karnal. Dr. J.C. Dagar, Head, SCM Division, CSSRI, Karnal welcomed the chairman and participants to the meeting. Dr. S.K. Gupta made a brief mention of the background of this meeting. He informed that the meeting is being organized at the initiative of Dr. Paroda. He is very keen to have first hand information on the problems being faced by the farmers with wide ranging recommendations to address the problems being faced by the farmers of the state.

Dr. Paroda in his initial remarks exhorted the farmers to come out openly while discussing their problems. The problems may be of general nature or specific to the districts to which they belong. He said that you may not expect some immediate solution to your problems to emerge from this meeting. All the problems that are raised at this and other forums of similar nature would be linked into and critically examined to arrive at specific recommendations in the commission's report. Besides, pressing problems requiring immediate attention of the Government would be raised during formal discussions by the Ayog at appropriate levels. Based on the discussions following important points emerged.

Water Charges

Fish farmers and others who store water in tanks, say farmers pursuing horticulture and/or conjunctive use of saline and fresh water have to pay water charges at the rate fixed for industries. Since it is affecting the net profit of the farming

community, the farmers requested the chairman to draw the attention of the government to this issue.

Gypsum Subsidy

It was brought to the notice that gypsum from Rajasthan could be procured at the same rates as are being charged by the organizations in Haryana after subsidy. As such, the relevance of subsidy needs to be looked into.

Nomenclature of CSR 30 as Basmati

CSR 30 has replaced large basmati areas in the state and is also spreading to other states. On the contrary, farmers are at the mercy of the rice millers who sometime purchase it as basmati while at other time as non-basmati. Therefore, a request was made to get its nomenclature changed to CSR 30-Basmati so that the farmers get the real benefits of the variety.

Nexus between Industry and Arhityas

The issue was seriously debated particularly due to the fact that arhityas were on strike at the very beginning of the rice procurement season. Since such strikes on the eve of procurement periods have occurred in the past as well, farmers fear that it is due to the nexus between the millers and the arhityas. Ultimately farmers are the loser. Government should resolve all the differences amongst various stakeholders well in time so that farmers are not inconvenienced on the procurement date and they get the full benefit of their produce.

Subsidy and Custom Hiring Kiosks

The agricultural machinery has become quite costly and new machines going beyond the reach of even the big farmers. Farmers expressed the view that besides appropriate subsidy on the purchase of zero till machines, laser land levelers, rotavators and harvesting machines, farm kiosks or machine banks should be established at village level.

Agricultural Clinics

Agricultural clinics need to be established at village level to guide on the molecules to be used and application technologies for insecticides, pesticides and herbicides. These clinics could also be entrusted with the task of soil and water analysis.

Mobile van service for soil and water tests should cater to all areas of the state on regular basis.

Single Window System

A single window system should be established at appropriate level to cater to all the facilities provided by the government to the farmers.

Subsidy on Multi-enterprise Model

Farmers have shown keen interest in the establishment of multi-enterprise model developed by CSSRI and other organizations. However, they expressed that suitable subsidy on the establishment of such models should be granted to expand this technology to poor and marginal farmers.

Subsidy on Underground Pipelines

Subsidy on underground pipe lines is being given in some districts under watershed programmes. In other districts it is not being given. Since water conservation is required every where the subsidy on underground pipe lines should be given in each and every district.

Depleting Water Table

Concern was expressed on the rate of depletion of the water table in many parts of the state. Rainwater harvesting, artificial ground water recharge and other options are available to halt or even revert the depleting water table. For farmers to adopt these technologies, one time subsidy and technical guidance should be made available. For this purpose extension or research organizations in the state could play a very important role.

Organic Farming

In spite of the known advantages and high price of the organically produced food products, it is not becoming popular. A plan may be prepared to make it popular and facilities for certification may be created in each district.

Contract Farming

Although contract farming is getting attention no guidelines have come from the government. As such, farmers are completely dependent on private firms who are

exploiting the farming community. Seed production on contract farming should be encouraged both by private and government organizations.

Payment by Cheque

It should be made mandatory to make all payments through the cheques, be it the produce sold in the market or sugarcane to the factories.

Weather Forecasting

In the fast changing climate scenario, short-term weather forecasting and guidance services should be made available in the state at each district.

Declaration of MSP/Bonus in Advance

MSP and bonus etc. on various crops should be declared before sowing of the crop and farmers growing crops and cultivars suitable for export should be given appropriate subsidy.

Veterinary Hospitals

Since the country is going for white revolution, veterinary clinics should be established in each village.

Kisan Advisory Committees

The Haryana Kisa Ayog should have its website and establish farmer's advisory committee for each district.

Bank Loan

The bank loan should be made available against the market value of land at an interest rate of 4% per annum.

Electrical Transformers

The state electricity board requires farmers to take responsibility of transformers against any theft or loss. It is a really difficult task as the transformers are located far away from the village. Necessary modifications in these guidelines are needed as farmers have to pay huge amounts even in theft cases. Besides the maintenance of wires etc, are not done properly by the board causing loss of human and animal lives in many cases.

Bio-drainage/Subsurface Drainage

A large area of the state is under the water logging stress. The subsurface and bio-drainage technology developed by CSSRI have been implemented at few places. These should be replicated in areas affected by water logging and soil salinity.

KVKs

KVKs should be activated to provide all kinds of guidance to the farmers at their door steps.

Land Revenue Demarcation Stones

The stones put up during consolidation of land holdings have been removed or have been replaced from their original point to some other point during regional development or by the farmers. These should now be put again at appropriate places so that there are no ambiguities in the land areas.

Vegetable Cultivation

Vegetables are good to increase the farmer's income. But the product is perishable and has a short shelf life. Cheap storage facilities at village level are required. Besides, if some price range is fixed it would help the farmers in getting good income for their produce. Post harvest facilities could be established so that excess produce is diverted to post harvest value added products. Such a facility would also provide employment opportunities to village youth who have no other job opportunities.

Diversification

Since large areas of Haryana are part of NCR, there is great potential of high value crops such as vegetable, flowers, baby corn, mushroom and spices provided adequate support through marketing infrastructure is made available to the farming community. Steps in this direction may be taken up to facilitate diversification to these crops.

Loan against Storage

For storage of the food grains, up to 90% advance of the stored value could be made available at village level till the product is disposed off in the market.

Distribution of Improved Breed of Bulls

One of the farmers raised this issue as he said that the current thinking of allocation of bulls to the village Panchayat of selected areas would create several problems. These should be distributed uniformly in the state and their use by the farmers should be transparent.

Agriculture in Education Curricula

Agriculture should be compulsory for school children at high school level.

In his concluding remarks, Dr. Paroda appreciated the overwhelming response from the farming community in raising the issues of concern. He assured that he would try to include most issues raised in the meeting so that some long lasting solutions to these problems emerge.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. P Dey of CSSRI, Karnal

Annexure VII

Proceedings of the Meeting of the Working Group on Haryana State Agriculture Policy with Progressive Farmers

Date : April. 03, 2011
Venue : Committee Room
Directorate of Human Resource Management
CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar

The Haryana Kisan Ayog had organized a special meeting with the progressive farmers of the State. The meeting was chaired by Dr. R.S. Paroda Chairman, Haryana Kisan Ayog. Dr. K.S. Khokhar, Member of the Ayog and the Vice Chancellor, CCS Haryana Agriculture University was the guest of honor. Dr. R.S. Dalal, Member Secretary, welcomed the dignitaries and the progressive farmers. About 25 progressive farmers from all over Haryana attended the Meeting.

The discussion started with a brief presentation by the chairman of the working group Dr. Mruthyunjaya on different aspects of proposed Haryana State Agriculture Policy. After four hours of brain storming session, in which every participant took active part, the following issues emerged:

1. Establishing State level Agriculture/Farmer Commission and formulating State level agriculture policy is indeed an evolution subsequent to formulation of National Agriculture Policy (2000), constituting the National Commission on Farmers (2004) and National Policy for Farmers (2006). The State level Commission will serve as a platform for farmers to express their genuine needs and aspirations which will be properly articulated and effectively communicated to the Government and other concerned players for necessary redressal. The State Commission is expected to propose an agricultural policy in the best interest of farmers and farming. It is strongly felt that it may be desirable to frame a Policy for Farmers of Haryana like the one on National Policy for Farmers.
2. Supply of critical inputs in adequate quantity and quality, on time and at reasonable prices at the door steps of farmers be mandated in the Policy. If this is properly done, there is no need to subsidize farm inputs. The unending practice of subsidies has spoiled the habits of farmers to become dependent on Government.

However, subsidies for fixed period are necessary particularly for small and marginal farmers for expensive investments like farm machinery, development of special infrastructure etc. Subsidy should be paid direct to the farmers without any intermediary.

3. It may be ensured that electricity becomes available to the farmers for at least 8 hours (it is on an average 4-5 hours but in inconvenient splits) preferably at a stretch during the day time. If made available during the night, the exact time schedule be made known to the farmers in advance. The subsidy on electricity is presently not extended to diesel which is discriminatory. This needs rectification. Suitable replacement to rice in the cropping system is immediately needed to save scarce water resource.
4. APMC Act to be amended to permit Co-operative Societies, Farmers Organizations, SHGs etc to buy and sell agricultural produce, particularly perishables like vegetables and fruits.
5. Tractors be also permitted to transport agricultural inputs and produce. Suitable amendments in the Rule Book (Motor Vehicle Act) are needed. There should be no restriction on the import of farm machinery and proper incentives be given.
6. Flood irrigation be banned by making it mandatory and even punishable. Similarly, make it mandatory to collect and use rain water for all domestic uses. Recharging of aquifer by digging ponds after every two km. and installation of recharge wells after every 10 acres of area. Similarly, water treatment plants be established and treated water be used in drip/sprinkler irrigation. At least one pond in a village be made Pucca and they be protected from pollution/contamination.
7. Strictly enforce the Act relating to indiscriminate use of agricultural chemicals for controlling the pests, diseases and weeds.
8. Do not permit conversion of productive agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses. If to be permitted under exceptional circumstances, ensure that it will be put to required use in the prescribed time limit. Based on analysis of supply and demand for productive agricultural land in future, fix the maximum limit for such conversions. Relaxation of rules for transfer of self acquired land to blood relations requires attention (like exemption of duty on sale deed).

9. If land is acquired for public use, adequately compensate the land owners either with residential plots, share in the industry/enterprise or providing employment to at least one of the family members etc.
10. Cultivable land should not be left fallow at any cost for more than 2 years. If left fallow, penalty be levied, including right of the Government for withdrawal of the land.
11. Attract youth in agriculture, search for their talents and reward them by making agriculture both interesting and rewarding.
12. There appears to be no technology breakthrough in the last few years, particularly so in dryland farming. Hence, Agriculture and /Forestry Departments have to work in partnership with Farmers' organizations.
13. To make agriculture profitable, plan agriculture by zones like rice-wheat belt, cotton belt, sugarcane belt, etc. Develop all facilities needed like processing, transport, market etc. Promote animal husbandry including fishery and forestry in these to promote mixed farming enterprises. The mixed farming ensures engagement of family labour throughout the year.
14. HYV and promising hybrid seeds are to be produced by identified farmers following the Seed Village concept. There is great urgency that hybrid seeds are produced also by the public sector institutions/ seed corporations.
15. Doubling of oilseed prices will help increase area under oilseeds. Fix MSP to vegetables. The MSP should be 1.5 times the cost of cultivation. Establish farmers markets like Raytu Bazars in AP and Apni Mandies in Punjab. This may require amendment in APMC Act. The procurement arrangements for MSP commodities should be ensured. Wide fluctuations in the prices of commodities during a season need to be brought under control. Mandi charges are very high in Haryana which needs rationalization keeping in view those levied in the neighboring states.
16. Farming is to be treated as any other service since farmers meet the basic need of food for the public. Therefore they also expect similar facilities which are extended to people in the service sector such as pension (at 55 years), health insurance, home loan, quality education to their wards, getting input sales agencies to their

children etc. The accident relief being given to the farmers has to be revised upward.

17. Farmers awarded national level recognitions/prizes are to be given due recognition through honor and rewards including inclusion of their name and achievements in books of world records. It will serve as a great encouragement/incentive.
18. Farmers should also have study visits abroad or within the country for learning new methods/innovations/developments in agriculture. Also the subject of Agriculture be taught as a compulsory subject at the school level. Strengthening agricultural extension and increasing manpower in public extension should be the future priority. Accounting and book keeping to be taught to the farmers by KVKs. Mass awareness campaign on modern agricultural practices to the farmers be also a priority. In future, agriculture graduates be only given the permission by the Government to sale the inputs like seeds, fertilizers and pesticides.
19. Agriculture and allied sectors (horticulture, dairy, poultry, piggery, and fishery) are important and for all purposes should be treated on par (water rates, tax, power charges etc). The current limit under KCC is very low (Rs.50000), which should be increased substantially. Also there is no justification for imposing the stamp duty for obtaining KCC.
20. Increasing land fragmentation is a major hurdle and innovative ways to overcome it should be thought of. For example, if some members of the household are in salaried jobs, their share of land may be given with all rights to other members of the family engaged in farming in exchange of suitable compensation.
21. The ceiling limit of land to Companies has to be reviewed so that land is not used for speculative earnings. It should be put to approve use only in the prescribed period.
22. The rules of land lease including the period of lease need to be such that the ownership rests with the farmer but it will not affect required investments on the land by the tenant.
23. The sewage water problem around villages nearer to NCR is acute. The policy to manage this problem needs to be spelt out. Similarly, there will always be a rising

demand for drinking water and supply of electricity to NCR from Haryana. Haryana has to have a long term policy in the best interest of the State keeping also in view the benefits to Haryana as a result of being nearer to NCR.

24. Give priority to value addition and cold chain development. Lot of scope exists to produce baby corn, sweet corn, mushroom, organic products etc.
25. Frost attack and heat stress during flowering/harvesting period are to be considered a natural calamity.
26. Import policy should match with local production so that local production is not discouraged.
27. The Directors of Agriculture, Horticulture, Fishery and Animal Husbandry should all be from technical services only.
28. Farmers should be allowed to establish small scale industries on their own land through provision of change in land use along with no objection certificate.
29. Incentives in the form of award and reward for the use of water saving devices in addition to subsidies be considered.
30. Development of infrastructure for high-tech fish farming, floating feed for fish and provision of high yielding fish seeds be now future priority
31. In case of canal irrigation, water charges be based on actual area irrigated and not on the basis of command area in official records.

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

Annexure VIII

Proceedings of the meeting with the Women Farmers with Expert Group on State Agriculture Policy

Date : May 7, 2011
Venue : Haryana Kisan Ayog, Hisar

A meeting of women farmers of Haryana was conducted under the chairmanship of Dr. R. S. Paroda. The chief guest of the meeting was Dr. Mruthyunjaya, Chairman of the working group on State Agriculture Policy. The meeting was also attended by Dr. K. S. Khokar, Vice-chancellor, CCS HAU Hisar, Dr. O. P. Dhanda, Dr. V. P. Singh, members of Working group State Agriculture Policy. More than 150 women farmers of different districts of Haryana participated in this meeting. The meeting was also attended by Dean's and Directors of CCS HAU Hisar, Coordinators KVK's, DDA's and personnel's of Haryana Kisan Ayog.

At the outset Dr. R. S. Dalal, Member Secretary, Haryana Kisan Ayog welcomed the Hon'ble Dr. R. S. Paroda, Chairman, Haryana Kisan Ayog and other dignitaries. The chairman expressed his views on different issues, problems and challenges faced by different sectors of agriculture in the state of Haryana. Thereafter, the women farmers were requested to express their problems and probable solutions both orally and in writing on the performa circulated to all the participants attending the meeting. During the meeting various issues were discussed and following points have been emerged out for consideration by the Commission and Expert Group on State Agriculture Policy, Haryana:

- 1 The women farmers have suggested that the Government input (seeds, fertilizer, pesticides) distribution counters should be available at block level, and women need to be promoted in this field by issuing the necessary licenses.
- 2 There is lack of knowledge of agriculture technology and service delivery system among the women farmers. The women farmers demanded proper training and need based regular advice to promote agriculture and agro based enterprises. They also suggested that the agriculture magazines and technical bulletins published by the University and Department of Agriculture should be made available to them.
- 3 The women farmers strongly proposed that cooperative dairy should be started in each and every village so that the women farmers may get proper price of milk at

their door step.

- 4 The women farmers are involved in all agricultural operations but when it comes to the sale of agriculture produce, they are deprived of the opportunity by male members of the family. They demanded agriculture mandies at block level with the provision of sale during the day hour along with Rs 50/quintal as bonus for empowerment of women in the society as per policy of the Govt.
- 5 They proposed that the loan facilities should be strengthened for agriculture produce at lower interest rate with simplified procedure of loan granting through banks. The women farmers should also get priority in the issue of KCC.
- 6 The minimum criteria to grant loan should be decreased from 5 acre to 1-2 acre or less area of land holding so that poor farmers having 1 or 2 acre land or less can start dairy units and other agro-based enterprises of integrated farming to improve their livelihood security, financial status and honor in the society.
- 7 Like male farmers, women farmers have demanded profitable price of agriculture, horticulture, dairy, poultry and other produce.
- 8 Women farmers also requested for more availability of modern tools of farming to reduce their drudgery and better participation in agriculture and other related agro based industries.
- 9 They strongly demanded cooperative collection and sale society or formation of Women SHG to facilitate sale of agriculture produce and input delivery at their door step in a cost effective manner in the village.
- 10 They strongly demanded complete ban on planting of rice before June 10, in Haryana.
- 11 They suggested establishment of Agriculture Women Service Centre like Aanganwadies in each Panchayat with the monthly provision of refresher training by the agriculture experts at their doorstep.
- 12 They demanded the provision of more Godowns at block or Panchayat level to better store and protect their produce.
- 13 They also demanded complete ban on burning of wheat and rice straw after the harvest.
- 14 The women farmers also demanded the purchase of their produce at their door step

like ITC e- Chopal Concept.

- 15 The women farmers are also engaged in several rural activities like participation in small scale business related to garments and other rural based money earning activities but there is no proper provision of training, collection or sale centre to help them in strengthening their livelihood security.
- 16 The women farmers of Jhajjar region demanded establishment of food processing plant in the already donated house of Sarpanch in Munimpur village. They strongly suggested that it not only would enhance the employment for the villagers but also solve the problem of sale of the ready to serve food items in NCR, due to its location that falls very near to NCR territory.
- 17 The women farmers also raised the question of health care and timely vaccination of their animals to cover different diseases i.e. mastitis, teeth cracking, FMD, brucellosis and repeated heating etc. They also demanded availability of seeds of good fodder varieties, mineral mixtures and proper medication to improve the milk yield of dairy cattle especially in summer season.
- 18 They also suggested that sale purchase license should only be issued to agriculture professional including Women Agriculture Graduates to facilitate availability of good quality seeds and agrochemicals as well as proper training and suggestion for their application.
- 19 They also requested agriculture service delivery through SMS or other IT mode.
- 20 They also drew attention towards milibugs in cotton crop which is causing heavy loss in the yield of seed cotton.
- 21 Farmers also reported the problem of flower drop and infestation of diseases in horticulture crops and poor yield or crop failure of vegetable irrigated with brackish water. The other suggestions were similar to those reported in several interactional meetings of large number of farmers of different divisions with Haryana Kisan Ayog. After the detailed discussion and suggestions on different issues, concluding remarks were offered by the Chairman Dr. R. S. Paroda, Vice Chancellor Dr. K. S. Khokar, Chairman Working group Dr. Mrutyunjaya, Members Dr. V. P. Singh, Dr. O. P. Dhanda and Dr. K. N. Rai. The vote of thanks was offered by Dr. (Ms) Anupama Deora Research Fellow, HKA.



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