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CONFERENCES, FIELD VISITS AND MILESTONES

Ministry of Agriculture renamed as Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi while addressing the need for farmers welfare in his Independence Day speech announced that Ministry of Agriculture would be renamed as "Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare". He further described that government is focussing to increase the farm productivity. Save water, save energy and save fertilizer should be our motto. The Prime Minister also emphasised on the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) which was launched with the out lay of Rs. 50,000 crore.



National Conference on Agriculture for Rabi Campaign 2015-16



A two days National Conference on Agriculture for Rabi Campaign 2015-16 was inaugurated by Hon'ble Agriculture Minister Shri Radha Mohan Singh on 22nd September, 2016 at National Agriculture Science Centre, Pusa Complex, New Delhi. Scientists, Agriculture Experts, Extension Workers across the country participated in this conference from 22-23 September for working out new strategies and sharing experiences. While addressing the audience Shri Radha Mohan Singh expressed his hope that this Rabi

Conference would serve as a platform for fruitful discussion, deliberation and sharing of experiences in framing the future course of action for the ensuing Rabi season. Hon'ble Minister of States for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, and Shri Mohanbhai Kalyanjibhai Kundariaya, also addressed the delegates. They emphasised that these two days of interaction with States/UTs would help in working out new strategies that will help the country to achieve total success in Rabi and contribute to the welfare of the farmers and economic development of the country.

Salient Features of Rabi Conference 2015-16

- Secretary (AC&FW) emphasized upon the need for a Seed Plan by the States and urged them to project their breeder seeds requirement for 2018, as production of breeder seeds take three years. He requested the States to regularly update the portal of crop insurance. Keeping in view of high potential of growth in horticultural sector, an amount of Rs.1000/- crore has been allocated for micro-irrigation projects and suggested the States to set up sprinkler and drip irrigation systems, wherever necessary.
- Secretary (DARE) & DG, ICAR suggested the States to promote the adoption of seeds of disease resistant & heat tolerant varieties. He stressed that crop diseases such as karnal bunt & yellow rust of wheat are reappearing and therefore, there is a need for greater surveillance and timely intervention to contain the spread of these diseases.
- The Joint Secretary (Fertilizers) suggested to create awareness among the farmers on the benefits of neem coated urea so that the requirement of fertilizers gets reduced. He also pointed out that the use of urea by some States is very high and there is a need to promote higher consumption of phosphate and potash to maintain soil health.
- The main focus of conference was on (i) Promoting Pulses and Oilseeds in Rice Fallows, (ii) Promoting Organic Farming through PKVY, (iii) Enhancing area under irrigation and achieving water used efficiency through PMKSY, (iv) Creating a National Integrated Market through National Agricultural Market, (v) Agrarian crisis and Agricultural crisis Issues and Solutions, and (vi) Promotion of Horticulture.



National Cooperation Development Corporation (NCDC) Summit at Shillong

In North Eastern Region, National Cooperation Development Corporation (NCDC) organized a Summit on 21st August, 2015 at Shillong for Cooperatives. This summit was chaired by Dr. Mukul M. Sangma Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya. Sh. Kiren Rijju, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Home Affairs graced the occasion as Special Guest of Honour and Shri Mohanbhai Kalyanjibhai Kundariya, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare was the Chief Guest.

Secretary (AC & FW)'s, visit to Centre of Excellence for Vegetables, Gharaunda, Karnal (Haryana)

Sh. Siraj Hussain, IAS, Secretary (DAC & FW), Govt. of India visited the Centre of Excellence for Vegetable, Gharaunda, Karnal on 07.08.2015. Dr. Arjun Singh Saini, Director General Horticulture, Haryana apprised the Secretary about various activities being carried out at the centre. He apprised that this center provides soilless hybrid vegetable seedlings to farmers at subsidized rates with more than 1.25 crore seedlings provided to the farmers and suitable varieties are adopted by them. So far 85 varieties of tomatoes, 40 varieties of capsicum, 30 varieties of cucumber were tried. This center has developed protocols of crop specific technologies including fertigation. A total of more than 500 persons have been trained by this Centre. Secretary (AC & FW) also visited Horticulture Training Institute, Uchani, Karnal and was quite impressed with the training facilities available at this Institute. The efforts of Department were appreciated by the Secretary.



Joint Secretary, INM Reviewed PKVY and SHC Schemes in Telangana



Paramparagath Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) scheme is being implemented in the Telangana State in 300 clusters covering 14999 acres & 15014 farmers with a financial out lay of Rs.21.42 Crore. Smt. I. Rani Kumudini, Joint Secretary (INM), GOI visited Talakondapally & Kalwakurthy Mandals in Mahbubnagar districts on 26.9.2015. In Mahdubnagar district of Telangana, organic farming is promoted under PKVY in 47 cluster of 50 acres each covering 64 mandals, 2350 acres of 2354 farmers. She interacted with PKVY cluster farmers and also reviewed the progress of implementation of the Soil Health Card Scheme.

Horticulture Mission reviewed in Sikkim

Dr. S.K. Malhotra, Horticulture Commissioner, Govt. of India, visited the Sikkim and reviewed the various programmes undertaken by the State Horticulture Mission under HMNEH. He has inspected quality planting material production of Orange & Guava at a Govt. Farm in Majhitar (East-Sikkim). He also inspected the Joint venture Centre on Anthurium production programme at Majhitar, tissue culture quality planting material of cymbidium and orchids, vegetable fields and green houses.



ACHIEVEMENTS (JULY-SEPTEMBER 2015) OF DAC & FW

- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, through Central Research Institute for Dry land Agriculture (CRIDA) of ICAR, Hyderabad prepared detailed Crop Contingency Plans for 600 districts. States had also been advised for preparing/updating/fine tuning Contingency Plans for each district in consultation with CRIDA-ICAR and the State Agriculture University.
 - The DAC&FW has nominated an Additional Secretary as Central Drought Relief Commissioner, who has visited Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh to assess the preparedness of the States to tackle the drought like situation/deficit monsoon.
 - Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare has allocated Rs. 410 crore to take initiatives in the process of minimizing the impact of drought and improving the ground water recharge.
 - Under Soil Health Scheme (SHS) 43.34 lakh soil samples have been collected for analysis up to 31 August, 2015, out of which 16.11 lakh tested and 9.48 lakh Soil Health Cards issued to farmers.
 - Launching of Soil Health Card portal on 15.7.2015 by the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister provided with a facility of registration, testing, fertilizer recommendations, Soil Health Card print and MIS modules. A total of 2.62 lakh soil samples have been registered in portal. Under SHCs an amount of Rs. 72.34 crores released to the states against an allocation of Rs. 96.46 crores.
 - The Annual Action Plan of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna (PKVY) approved for 22 States and one Union Territory for Rs. 214.68 crore of GOI share to develop 6068 cluster of which Rs. 163 crore has been released so far to the states under PKVY.
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- Under National Mission on Oilseed & Oil Palm (NMOOP) against the budget allocation of Rs. 353 crore, Rs.141.43 crore has been released to States. Frontline Demonstrations of Rabi/Summer oilseeds in cluster mode over an area of more than 11,000 ha involving 448 KVKs of ICAR with an allocation of Rs. 8 crore has been approved. An area of 2574 ha has been brought under oil palm cultivation up to August 2015.
 - Annual Action Plan with an outlay of Rs. 200 crore (on 50 : 50 cost sharing basis between Govt. of India and States Govt.) have been approved for bringing the additional area coverage under oilseeds in 21 states for Rabi/Summer season during 2015-16. So far, Annual Action Plans of 13 states for Rs. 137 crore approved.
 - Marketing Division of DAC&FW organised a workshop on 27.08.2015 on National Agriculture Market (NAM) which was presented by 10 States viz. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Telangana & Kerala. These States are expected to take a lead in the implementation of NAM.
 - During current financial year 2015-16, Rs. 80 crore has been approved for implementation of National Bamboo Mission (now NABM), of which Rs. 29.75 crore has been released to various States/BTSGs. This assistance under the scheme is in the ratio of 50 : 50 by the Central Government and State Government respectively.
 - A total of 40,365 Farmer Interest Groups (FIGs) have been formed. These FIGs further have been federated into 351 Farmer's Producer Organizations (FPOs) and 333 FPOs are under the process of registration.
 - By August, 2015, under various schemes of DAC (except RKVY), Government of India has released Rs.409.52 crores to the State Governments for establishment of 363 Farm Machinery Banks for custom hiring and distribution of 6,30,538 agricultural equipments including tractor, power tillers and self propelled machinery.
 - From April 2015 to 22 October 2015, 92,349 advisories and 449.98 crore SMSs were sent by the scientists, experts and officers throughout the country on different aspects of agriculture.
 - A budget provision of Rs. 2,000 crore has been made for the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) out of which, Rs. 1,500 crore is for National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Horticulture Mission for North East & Himalayan states (HMNEH), Nations Bamboo Mission (NBM), Rs. 500 crore for National Horticulture Board (NHB), Coconut Development Board (CDB) and Central Institute for Horticulture (CIH), Nagaland. By August, 2015, funds to the tune of Rs. 525.50 crore has been released comprising of Rs. 422.78 crore for NHM and Rs. 102.72 crore for HMNEH states.

- Special Plan on Additional Area Coverage for increasing pulses production during Rabi/Summer 2015-16 under NFSM-Pulses with a total budget allocation of Rs. 400 crore on 50:50 sharing pattern basis between the Central and State Governments (central share Rs. 200 crore) for 16 states and 3 hill states has been approved.
- 31 improved varieties / hybrids of major vegetable crops were released and notified in August, 2015 with enhanced yield potential and stress tolerance / resistance in diverse agro-ecological regions of the country.

STATE NEWS

Certificate Courses Launched in CIH, Nagaland



Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, has approved four Certificate Courses of three months duration for horticulture development in the NE region. The courses would be run and managed by the Central Institute of Horticulture, Nagaland. The courses offered are 1. Modern Nursery Management Practices of Horticultural Crops, 2. Post Harvest Management of Horticultural Crops, 3. Organic Farming & Certification, and 4. Protected Cultivation of Horticulture Crops.

Accreditation & Certification of Horticulture Nurseries in CIH, Nagaland

Central Institute of Horticulture, Nagaland has been authorized for accreditation & certification of public & private horticulture nurseries in eight states of North East region. The Institute with the support from State Horticulture Department in NE states is tirelessly working for recognition of horticulture nurseries in the region. The availability of true to type and quality planting material is crucial for success of commercial horticulture and it necessitates having a network of horticulture nurseries which conform to Model Nursery Standards in terms of infrastructure, quality of seed & planting material and adoption of nursery management practices.



Plug Type Vegetable Seedling Production Units Established in Chhattisgarh



In order to ensure quality farming, the Horticulture Department initiated a "Seed Multiplication Unit" in a stretch of 75 acres at Bana village (Raipur). In this farm, a "**Plug Type Vegetable Seedling Production Unit**" has been established under Rashtritya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). Here the seeds are grown into seedlings, mechanically and with perfection. The unit has a production capacity of about 2 crore seedlings per annum. Keeping in view the success of Bana unit, 1 Big Plug Type Vegetable Seedling Production Unit has also been established in Bilaspur with a total cost of Rs. 600 lakh having a capacity of 1 crore seedlings production per annum.

SUCCESS STORIES

Shri Dharambir Kamboj Invented Food Processing Machine



Shri Dharambir Kamboj from village Dhamla in Yamunanagar District of Haryana, is a small farmer. The circumstances forced him to work in medicine factory in Delhi. His experience and knowledge of working in the factory persuaded him to grow medicinal plants , fruits, vegetables, strawberry, button mushroom, baby corn etc. On his small farm. He started this with the help of KVK, Yamunagar. He realized importance of processing for more income. After consulting the fruits and herbs processing centre, he started to develop food processing machine. First model developed was used only for extracting juice. The second model was prepared after refinement and devised in such a way that it makes pulp or juice without breaking seed. Now, he started to produce many products with the help of this modified machine.

He is not only selling this food processing machine but also producing many herbal products such as creams, laddus (sweets), shampoo, juices and other food products rose water, aloe-vera juice, gel, essential oil etc. The brand name is 'Prince' named after his son. He has sold more than 250 machines helping others to set up their enterprises. He has given employment to more than 35 women at his firm.

Dharambir Kamboj has not only participated in various national and international fairs, but also involed in selling product and machines and motivating the farmers. He has got many awards like, Fifth and Seventh National Biennial Award Functions for Grass Root Technological Innovations and Outstanding Traditional Knowledge (State Award) and National First Award . President of India has selected him as one of five innovation scholar selected for First Scholar in President Residence Programme. He is accessible on 9896054925, 09817646563.

Smt. Ranjili Devi Famous Mushroom Mam has set an Example of Diversification

Smt. Ranjili Devi is a house wife and belongs to Chaknwada village, Barh, Patna, (Bihar). Earlier she was engaged in vegetable cultivation on a small scale as she has very small land holding. Due to low income from traditional vegetable cultivation, her life was very difficult. Mrs. Ranjili Devi was very much interested in adopting enterprises having low cost with higher return. On the suggestions of scientist of KVK, Barh, Patna, she adopted cultivation of oyster mushroom on a small scale with 1000 bags. Initially she faced many problems like lack of spawn, market facilities, low price of the produce etc. but continuous encouragement by scientists of KVK, she could achieve in succeed this enterprise. In 2011 with the financial help of Zonal unit Kolkata, spawn production unit established at KVK, she initiated this enterprises on large scale with 3000 bags and sold it in local as well as in Patna market and her saving was Rs.1,41,510/-. Her success influenced villagers and other people to adopt this venture which involves low cost and gives higher return. Now she is a role model in her village and known as Mushroom Mam. She can be contacted on 08864009574 and 09199497189.

