

PROCEEDING OF STATE LEVEL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE(SLEC) MEETING OF NATIONAL MISSION ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (NMSA) HELD ON 3RD APRIL, 2017 FOR DISCUSSION ON MISSION ORGANIC VALUE CHAIN (MOVCD) IN ASSAM

DATE : 3RD APRIL, 2017
TIME : 3 PM
VENUE : CONFERENCE HALL OF ADDITIONAL CHIEF SECRETARY & APC, GOVT. OF ASSAM, CM BLOCK, DISPUR, GUWAHATI - 6

Members present

Sl. No	Name	Designation
1	Sri K.K. Mittal, IAS	Addl. Chief Secretary & APC & Chairman, SLEC, NMSA
2	Sri Amlan Baruah, IAS.	Commissioner & Secretary, Agriculture, Assam
3	Smti. S I Rashid IAS	Secretary, Agriculture, Assam
4	Sri A. Bhuyan, A.C.S	Joint Secretary AH &Vety., & Director, AH &Vety. Deptt.
5	Sri Prabin Kr. Hazarika	Director of Horticulture & FP, Assam
6	Dr. G. N. Hazarika	Director of Research (Agril), AAU
7	Dr. Sarat Saikia	Chief Scientist, HRS, AAU
8	K.K. Choudhury	Chief Engineer, Agril. Assam
9	Dr. N.K. Das	Spl. Officer (Planning) AH &Vety.
10	Sri Pritom Baruah	Assistant Director of Agril, ASFAC
11	Dr. Pranab Kr. Mahanta	Deputy Director of Agril (Horti) & N.O., MOVCD
12	Sri Khagendra Sarmah	SDAO, (Horti) & Programme Officer MOVCD

The State Level Executive Committee Meeting of National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA) was held to discuss various issues regarding implementation of "Mission Organic Value Chain Development in Assam" in the office chamber of Addl. Chief Secretary & APC, Government of Assam, Dispur, on 3rd April, 2017 under the chairmanship of Addl. Chief Secretary & APC, Agriculture Department, Assam.

The Chairman Welcomed all the members presents and requested the Director of Horticulture & FP, Assam to brief the objectives of the Meeting.

Director of Horticulture & FP, Assam narrated the Action Taken Report and the committee accepted the action taken reports of last SLEC held on 20th Dec, 2016 and requested Director of Horticulture & FP, Assam to complete the pending activities like formation of Assam Organic Mission and to create Organic Certification Body at State Level. The committee also requested the Director of Horticulture & FP to finalize the timeline for each and every activity to be taken up under MOVCD for its timely completion.

The committee reviewed the progress of implementation of "Mission Organic Value Chain Development in Assam" 2016-17. Director of Horticulture informed that during the financial year 2015-16 an amount of Rs 2439.30 lakh was allocated to Assam and the amount ~~were~~^{was} released by Govt of India in two instalment during the financial year



2016-17. Out of this an amount of Rs 1448.66 lakh was ^{spent} physically achieved and provisional UC for an amount of Rs 1448.10 lakh was submitted to Govt of India. The physical and financial progress of MOVCD for the year 2016-17 is as below:

Amount in Lakh

ITEM/WORKS	ALLOCATION FOR 2015-16		ACHIEVEMENT 2016-17		Remarks
	Phy	Fin	Phy	Fin	
A. Value Chain Production					
A1. Development of Organic Production Clusters					
Clusters development & formation of FPC, as per SFAC norms.	10 FPC	163	10FPC	163	Service provider is rendering services.
Assistance on-farm input production infrastructure (@ Rs 3750/ha/year) x 2 yrs	5000 Ha	375	5000 Ha	187.5	Vermin Composts units are constructed and after receipt of completion of report, the fund is being released to farmers by means of DBT.
Assistance for off-farm inputs (@ Rs 3750/ha/year) for 2 yrs	5000 Ha	375	5000Ha	375	Fund is being released against receipted Bill/ Challan from ASC Ltd.
Assistance for quality seed and planting material (50% of maximum 35000/ha).	5000 Ha	700	5000 Ha	700	Fund is being released against receipted Bill/ Challan from ASC Ltd.
C. Value chain Marketing - Branding, labelling, certification, quality control, retail outlets, awareness and publicity through lead agencies					
iii. Buyer-seller meets		2	1	1	Completed
v. Participation in national exhibition/Biofach		3	1	2.16	Completed
D. Value Chain Support Agencies					
Staff, Manpower, Travel and contingencies, Institutional strengthening and hire/ purchase of machinery and equipments	-	55.92		20	Ongoing
Grand Total		2439.3		1448.7	

During the discussion on formation of FPO/FPC, Director of Horticulture informed that the work order for formation of 10 (ten) FPO/FPC was issued to M/S Sheel Biotech Ltd. It was also informed by the Director of Horticulture that M/S Sheel Bio Tech Ltd was requested to furnish the monthly activities to be performed to enable to release the fund earmarked to the service provider. But M/S Sheel Bio-tech failed to furnish the activity list till 31st March 2017, as committed, due to which fund could be released. However, the action plan detailing the time line for its implementation was placed by the Department as per SFAC norms and communicated to M/S Sheel Bio Tech for its execution.

The committee discussed the enlisted activities and approved the same alongwith time frame. The enlisted activities is at **Annexure-I**.

Regarding the On farm Input production, Director of Horticulture informed that setting up of 5000 vermicompost is in progress. As per decision of last SLEC, the amount is to be released to the beneficiaries by means of DBT against which completion report has been obtained. It was also informed that during implementation, the Director has faced problem in obtaining completion certificate against the civil works like MB, Bill etc. as it is time consuming in the existing system. The committee discussed to find out a simple procedure for completion certificate as it involves a small amount of schematic assistance (only Rs. 3750 per beneficiary) for vermicompost units which is to be released to beneficiaries by means of DBT.

To simplify fund release process, the committee decided that upon completion of vermin compost unit, farmer will submit a declaration along with photograph of the installed units and a completion certificate will be jointly issued by ADO and concerned JE, after field verification. The District Agriculture Officer will verify minimum 5% of the works and will submit a monitoring report based upon which Director of Horticulture will release the fund through DBT.

For remaining part of on farm input production, like Panchagyabhya, compost making, the committee advised to complete all works and to release the fund to the beneficiaries as early as possible.

Regarding distribution of Off farm inputs like Azadaractin, Bio fertilizers and Soil enriched Bio-care, PROM etc Director Horticulture informed that distribution of Off farm inputs has already been completed through ASC. However, due to allegation against supply of PROM, it was advised by the committee to make the payment of PROM only after getting clearance from the appropriate authority.

The committee advised to communicate with ASC Ltd. to lift back the alleged input Viz. PROM, supplied under the scheme and the fund earmarked for PROM should be used for other Off farm inputs based upon the demand of the farmers ^{giving} ~~having~~ best ^{results} performance in the field. It was also advised to make an arrangement by ASC to collect samples of bio-fertilizers and sent it to AAU for its analysis, which are yet to be supplied.

During the discussion on the issues relating to supply of Planting materials like vegetable seeds, ginger, turmeric, pine apple etc. Director of Horticulture informed that distribution of seeds and planting materials have already been completed except Red rice. Regarding Red rice in Dhemaji, Majuli and Bokakhat, as the price of Red rice seed is very



less as compared to other Horticultural crops (Rs 25.00- 30.00 per kg) it costs approx. Rs 10,00,000.00 for 500 ha, saving an amount of Rs 60,00,000.00 lakh. The committee discussed the matter and advised the Director of Horticulture to release the fund ^{into} ~~to~~ the account^{for monitoring} of the FPOs for its proper utilization and also requested to make an arrangement ~~to control~~ the account^{of} FPOs by the concerned DAO/SDAO.

The committee also advised to utilize the left out fund to cover additional beneficiaries and additional area under organic farming in those selected districts/ location.

During the discussion on on AAP of MOVCD for the year 2017-18, Director of Horticulture & FP informed that as per instruction of Govt. of India, Annual Action Plan of MOVCD for the year 2017-18 was submitted in February, 2017 for discussion and its approval during Executive Committee Meeting held at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi on 1.3.2017 and 17.3.2017. The abstract of the AAP 2016-17 and 2017-18 along with AAP of 2015-16 is as below.

Year	Allocation/Approved amount	Amount Released	Remarks
2015-16 (April 16)	2439.30	2439.30	UC submitted for Rs.1488.10
2016-17	526.22	Nil	Fund will be released subject to submission of UC
2017-18	1815.835	Nil	
2017-18 (Addl.)	1031.11	Nil	

The Committee discussed the Annual Action Plan submitted to Govt of India and approved the same which is detailed at **Annexure-II**.

Discussing the matter on availability of fund under MOVCD, Director of Horticulture & FP Assam informed that 1st and 2nd instalment of fund was received from Govt of India during 2016-17. The amount was deposited in the PFMS account of ASFAC directly routed from Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India. The work order for most of the components have been issued, but due to non receipt of Bill/ Challan from supplying agencies fund release process could not be completed within the financial year 2016-17. The committee allowed the Director Horticulture to expedite the process of implementation and complete the fund release process, so that UC can be submitted as early as possible to enable Govt of India to release the allotted fund to the state.

Discussion on Support and extension services for training, handholding and certification at production stage through hiring of service providers : It was informed that Govt of India released an amount of Rs 160.00 lakh(2015-16) and Rs. 165.00 lakh(2016-17) for extension services for training, handholding and certification at



production stage. It was also informed that as per guideline of MOVCD, the training, hand holding and certification at production stage is to be imparted through the service providers. Director Horticulture informed that M/S Sheel Bio Tech Ltd who has been engaged as Resource Agency (RA) for formation of FPO/FPC expressed their willingness to act as service provider for extension services for training, handholding and certification at production stage.

The committee advised the Director Horticulture to arrange a meeting with the RI / Service provider immediately and to act accordingly to complete ^{the required} activities.

Discussion on complete Value Chain Action plan of each cluster as well of each commodity. Officers of Directorate of Horticulture narrated the Value chain Analysis of ginger, turmeric, vegetables, red rice and pine apple developed for the state. The committee requested to make wide publicity for processing unit under MOVCD to attract the entrepreneurs involved with the FPOs for its sustainability.

Discussing the matter on proposal submitted by Deptt. of Agriculture, Bodoland Territorial Council on Organic Bodoland Mission, it was informed that out of 10 clusters allotted for the state, 2 clusters are operated in 2 districts of Bodoland viz. Kokrajhar and Chirang covering 500 ha in each cluster. After discussion the committee suggested Director of Horticulture to seek proposal from Baska or Udalguri from BTAD and to consider it if found feasible in next phase.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair.



(K K Mittal IAS)

Addl. Chief Secretary & APC, Assam
& Chairman, SLEC (NMSA)