

Minutes of the 2nd meeting of J&K State Advisory Board for Development of Kisans held on 19th of April, 2012 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister (Chairman of the Board).

Present:

1. Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development.
2. Hon'ble Minister for Horticulture/Floriculture.
3. Hon'ble Minister for Animal/Sheep Husbandry.
4. Hon'ble Minister for Revenue.
5. Hon'ble Advisor to Hon'ble Chief Minister
6. Hon'ble Political Advisor to Hon'ble Chief Minister.

The following officers were also present:-

1. Chief Secretary, J&K State.
2. Director General of Police, J&K State.
3. Principal Secretary to Government Finance Department.
4. Principal Secretary to Government Planning & Development Department.
5. Principal Secretary to Government Irrigation & F.C Department.
6. Comm/Secretary to Government Agriculture Production Department.
7. Comm/Secretary to Government Forest Department
8. Comm/Secretary to Government Revenue Department.
9. Comm/Secretary to Government Animal/Sheep Husbandry Department.
10. Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Srinagar.
11. Divisional Commissioner, Jammu.
12. Special Secretary to Government Law Department.
13. Heads of Departments of Agriculture and allied departments.
14. Representatives of SKUAST Srinagar/Jammu.
15. General Manager, NABARD, Jammu.
16. Representatives of J&K Bank, Srinagar/Jammu.

Special Invitees

- 1 S. Tajinder Singh, Florist, Jammu
- 2 Shri Javaid Ahmad Hajam Orchardist, Shopian
- 3 Shri Tilak Raj Sharma, Rajouri
- 4 Shri Haq Nawaz, Advocate, Rajouri

The following Members of the Kisan Advisory Board participated in the meeting:-

1. Shri Abdul Kabir Pathan, Kullar, Pahalgam, Anantnag.
2. Shri Gh. Qadir Mir, Rajpora, Pulwama
3. Shri D.P. Khajuria, Gandhinagar, Jammu
4. Shri Abdul Hamid Dar, Pinjoora, Shopian
5. S. Manjeet Singh, Vijaypur, Samba.

6. Shri Ghulam Mohammad Dar, Buchpora, Srinagar.
7. Shri Gulzar Ahmed Wani, Shangas, Anantnag.
8. Shri Mohammad Sultan Shaheen, Duderhama, Ganderbal.
9. Shri Gh. Nabi Bhat, Latter Chadoora, Budgam
10. Shri Mohammad Sharief Niaz, Doda.
11. Shri Mohammad Amin Mir, Ward No:4 Bandipora
12. Shri Sheikh Ishfaq, Lar, Ganderbal
13. Shri Qaiser Jamsheed Lone, Sogam, Kupwara.
14. Shri Noor Mohammad Bhat, Gund-i-Jahangir, Sonawari, Bandipora.
15. Shri Sonauallah Sheik, Handwara, Kupwara
16. Shri Tanveer Kitchloo, Kishtawar.
17. Haji Farooq Mir, Lolab, Kupwara
18. Ms. Jawahira Bano, Charari Sharief, Budgam.
19. Shri Romy Khajuria, Billawar, Kathua.
20. Smt. Raja Farooq, Kupwara.
21. Shri Ghulam Mohammad Wani, Nutnusa Kupwara
22. Shri. Jahangir Mir, Poonch
23. Shri Ab. Rahim @ Hamid Rana, Samote Surankote, Poonch
24. Shri Prem Nath Noomi, Ladden, Udampur.
25. Shri Devinder Singh (Bindu) Dhanni, Kathua
26. Smt. Habla Kar, Sopore, Baramullah
27. Prof. Aziz Mir, Leh, Ladakh.
28. Shri Mohsin Ali, Barsoo, Kargil.
29. Shri Gh. Hassan Rather, Baramullah.
30. Smt. Shameema Raina, Pulwama
31. Shri Rajesh Bittu, R. S Pora, Jammu
32. Shri Prakash Sharma, Samba.
33. Smt. Kanta Andotra, Kathua.
34. Shri Vipin Pal Sharma, Sunderbani, Rajouri.

At the outset the Hon'ble Vice Chairman J&K State Advisory Board for Development of Kisans welcomed the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Hon'ble Ministers, Officers and other distinguished guests in the meeting and while initiating the deliberations of the meeting stated that the establishment of Advisory Board for Development of Kisans by the State Government was a sincere demonstration of Government's resolve to look into the problems of farmers of the State. He stated that the Board would be an arm of the State Government closer to the farmers and its work would be more relevant in addressing the problems of the farmers.

The Secretary of the Board read out the agenda points.

The members of Board present in the meeting expressed their views pertaining to the improvements required in the Agriculture and allied sectors and suggested the measures which were summarized as under:-

1. **Input Supply:** Supply of inputs for agricultural crops in different sectors of Agriculture production required to be ensured at the distribution centres one month in advance to the sowing season. The storage capacity at distribution centres needs to be enhanced by constructing additional Godowns at district and State headquarters in phased manner.

The procurement of pesticides, fungicides and weedicides should be undertaken by the department and stored to meet the critical requirements at the time of outbreak of diseases like yellow rust, blight etc. The micro nutrient supply has also to be ensured alongwith fertilizers and bio-fertilizers. These programmes can be planned in consultation with SKUAST Srinagar/Jammu.

The seed policy of the State for self and cross pollinated crops needs to be worked out as per seed policy and accordingly arrangements made for certified seeds. The farmers can also be involved in seed multiplication.

The weather fluctuations have become very common and early or late rains disturb the cropping pattern. There is urgent need to establish a seed bank with purpose to properly store reasonable quantity of seeds over and above the projected requirements in advance to meet the eventualities arising due to weather changes.

2. **Crop Production:** The formulation of farm production plans, effective introduction of soil health cards and adoption of Kisan Credit Cards coupled with adequate trainings for adoption of new agriculture technology form the basis for ensuring higher production. The balance use of fertilizers and recommended crop varieties through agriculture extension service has to be properly ensured.

Different agro climatic zones of the State require different treatment and selection of crops and adoption of vegetables and other intensive production schemes. Maize, Wheat and Paddy production areas can be adopted as project based activity with all round attention to development of the identified area.

Potato seed production in the virus free zones can be intensified as a commercial activity and the tissue culture plants supplied on large scale will have additional benefit for the growers.

The backward and forward linkages play important role in the success of agriculture production schemes. Well conceived procurement policy through State resources at minimum support price (MSP) should be decided and settled before each crop harvest season to avoid distress sales.

Tissue culture laboratories need to be developed and established for production of quality plants of fruits, vegetables, forest material and floriculture plants etc.

Organic farming is gaining popularity and production through this mechanism fetches premium price of the production. A separate project as per the available potential can be planned and implemented for crops, vegetables and fruits.

3. **Kandi Development:** Only one third of the cultivated area under different crops is irrigated in J&K and the rest is surviving for crop cultivation on natural precipitation. This area requires special treatment as it is spread over in consolidated big chunks from Lakhanpur to Baramullah. The sub tropical and temperate Kandi projects on compact area approach basis can be developed with the object of water conservation, growing of crops and plants suiting to the land classification, taking up animal/Sheep husbandry, poultry, sericulture and other related activities including Mushroom and Beekeeping etc. Efforts need to be undertaken for the revival and preservation of the water bodies like ponds already existing in the State and establishing small water lifting schemes wherever possible by constructing check dams on the streams and nallahs in the selected areas.

About 1.73 lakh hectors of land exist as waste or fallow land in the State. After proper identification at ground level a scheme of land reclamation need to be taken up and land thus recovered can be utilized accordingly as per its potential.

4. **Demonstrations:** The communication of technology through demonstrations can convince the farmers and motivate them for adoption of the same in their programmes. These demonstrations are being undertaken with different purposes by KVK and Agriculture department but emphasis is required to popularize package of practices through demonstrations and this effort coupled with the utilization and application of micronutrients, bio-fertilizers and crop rotations. One demonstration will be of one year duration and thereby growing more than one crop will have to be explored.

The model village scheme of the Rural Development Department has created useful infrastructure which if utilized can prove beneficial for promoting

agriculture production. Similarly ATMA scheme has been successful in producing outstanding progressive farmers whose services can be utilized as village guides for demonstration programmes.

The average land holding of J&K is only 0.6 hectares. The Agriculture Universities can plan a special composite demonstration scheme with properly cropping pattern for each agro climatic zone by organizing demonstrations with the object of ensuring highest per unit output without any deterioration of soil conditions of the utilized area. These demonstrations can be developed for future as growth centres and the local farmers can be associated with this activity.

5. **Agriculture Policy:** An innovative Agriculture Policy with suitable diversification is need of the hour at a situation where the State is grappling with managing employment opportunities for the rural youth who are getting disillusioned with farming as a profession. The State is having different agro climatic zones and best possible exploitation of its available land and climatic resources, has to be the theme of its policy with full protection to the soils and generating maximum per unit production output. The policy must be well linked with proper supply and availability of inputs and extension services and management of disposal of the produce by the farmers at the remunerative rates and properly linked with value additions wherever possible. Composite growth in Agriculture sector can be object of the policy.

6. **Special schemes:**

- a. **Mushroom cultivation** is getting popular in both the divisions of the State due to technological improvements. The supply of quality spawn of high yielding strains required to be made available to the farmer after conducting a well organized research activity with the Universities (SKUAST).

The compost of mushroom is being produced through traditional methods. The pasteurization of this compost on large scale at the level of cultivators and the Government is required for increased production. It is a perishable commodity and steps are needed to encourage value addition to this product.

- b. **Bee Keeping:** The J&K is having a potential of managing 3.0 lac Bee colonies. The present strength is about 50 thousand colonies in both the Divisions. Bee colonies can be utilized as source of crop pollination for

increasing the production. The temperate fruits need special consideration for having bee colonies for pollination purposes.

The insurance of the honey bee colonies while in transit or at its locations is required to safeguard the unexpected losses. Matter required to be discussed and settled with the Insurance Companies.

Computerized Comb Foundation Mills are required to be installed to produce quality Comb foundation sheets which are easily acceptable to the honey bees resulting higher output. It needs minimum support price (MSP) to prevent distress sale.

c. **Vermi Compost:** The scheme of local manurial resources was existing in the Department in the past. This scheme was dealing in popularization of methods of proper composting of the village cow dung and farm yard manure. This activity is now urgently required to be a part of green manuring of our annual programme with a very high outlay and have to be adopted on large scale.

d. **Saffron:** saffron mission is being implemented in Kishtawar district also. The rejuvenation of existing saffron area by replacements of corms, providing new technology, sprinkle and drip irrigation etc. can be undertaken for all the existing and new areas.

7. **Horticulture:** The Canning units are existing in some of the district headquarters. At least one demonstration-cum-commercial canning centre is required to be established in each district. The surplus production of horticulture and vegetable crops can be canned and marketed to avoid distress sale/wastage and can also encourage rural youth to take up the work as a profession.

For utilization of the culled fruits especially apple, juice concentrate plants in the private sector can be established which can generate additional self employment opportunities. On the same pattern the units can be established for walnut grading in the rural areas.

Peca-nut has been successfully grown on commercial basis by local growers which need expansion in un-irrigated areas of the State. Fruits like Peach, Walnut and Naktreen have also high potential and require expansion in the suitable areas. A well organized effort for production of planting material, communication of technology and establishment of orchards have to be planned for aforementioned fruits.

Apricot cultivation in Ladakh region is the monopoly item of J&K, the area under this fruit requires expansion at accelerated pace and apricot thus produced can be marketed in raw form and after value addition.

In the districts of Doda, Ramban and Udhampur (hilly areas) olive cultivation is existing in wild farms. The programme of replacing of the existing plantation with the high yielding plants need to be accelerated and to meet the requirement of planting material, the olive nurseries in Ramban and Kishtawar areas requires expansion along with creation of new nurseries.

The implementation of the Horticulture mission in the state has generated the preference with the growers for plantation of various fruit plants. The planting material under the mission is being arranged from the private registered nurseries. On long term basis the steps like improving and revival of mother plants at government nurseries can encourage establishment of large nurseries in private sector by providing some additional incentives including the government land on suitable terms and conditions.

8. **Floriculture:** Growing of flowers, multiplication of bulbs, corms, cut-flowers etc is gaining popularity and this programme has provided employment to the youth and additional income in the villages. There is need to organize this sector with focus to provide quality planting material, technology and market support. The agro climatic zones need proper exploitation (including Ladakh region) by way of providing suitable crop rotation and training facility to the growers.

The sprinkle and drip irrigation has sufficient potential in the floriculture sector. The work being done in this regard by Gujarat and Haryana States requires study and adoption for certain area with suitable changes. The growing of flower bulbs is the monopoly of J&K. this activity can be scientifically organized in the temperate areas which will result in self employment opportunities and culminate our dependence on import of bulbs from Holand and other areas.

The Nunar Farm in Ganderbal can be revived for production of bulbs of tulip/lalyam and other flowers and developed as model floriculture farm. Ompora Industrial Estates (Budgam) can be developed as commercial floriculture park where single window system and common infrastructure can be put in place to give strength to this sector on the pattern of Telegaon floriculture Park Pune. Possibilities are required to be explored for Corporate Social Scheme on PPP mode. Two markets with suitable storage arrangements

for Srinagar and Jammu can be established to provide market support to this sector.

9. **Irrigation:** The net irrigated area in J&K is only 3.00 lac hectares and the gross irrigated area is 4.7 lac hectares. The irrigated area remains fallow during Rabi Season in hilly districts and there is immediate requirement to devise suitable cropping pattern to utilize the available potential. The gravity irrigation is growing very slow. The scheme of constructing a link canal in Kathua district alone can add about one lac acres under irrigated area. In the other areas the sub soil water exploitation after proper survey from Geology and Mining Department will help in augmenting the irrigation facility for ensuring maximum utilization of available irrigation methods as per cropping pattern.

The ponds are traditional source of water in Kandi and other un-irrigated areas. These ponds require reclamation and rejuvenation on priority basis. These may form a priority programme in MNEGRA. New ponds can also be established as per availability of location in catchment areas.

The development of new and non-renewal energy sources are gaining popularity and recognition in the State. The pump sets operated by solar energy for irrigation purposes have adequate potential and needs to be installed with the co-operation of farmers by the Science and Technology Department.

Annual Maintenance of the Ranbir and Partap Canals is of age old practice. Present system of long closure of canals adversely effects Rabi production. This practice requires very serious thinking in respect of reducing canal closure period by pre-planning of the exercise utilizing present available machinery for earth moving etc. The maintenance of main Canal and distributaries can be attended by the Irrigation Department and clearance of minor/down below outlets entrusted to Panchayats and can be funded under MG NREGA scheme.

10. **Land Records:** Land documentation is urgent requirement and issuing of pass books with proper land record is need of the hour. Reclamation of about 1.7 lac hectares of waste and fellow lands can create additional area for cultivation of crops, growing of plants, raising of forest etc., as per land capability classes. This requires to be taken up in all the districts as a time bound activity.

Consolidation of land holdings on voluntarily basis has to be revived and this will have a great impact for increasing the crop production. The use of agriculture land for non-agriculture purposes is a great concern and steps

required to be taken to check it. Some additional Legislative measures are required to be initiated for the purpose.

11. **Fisheries:** J&K is having huge potential for undertaking production of cold water fish which is of premium quality and in great demand. In the other areas growing of fish in ponds, streams etc., have also to be accelerated. The scheme of trainings, supply of equipment and market support with higher outlay is required to be ensured. Fisheries in Leh and Kargil have vast potential and disposal of the produce as raw or after value addition is possible. This activity requires large scale expansion.
12. **Animal/Sheep Husbandry:** Small and large Dairy units are required to be established in private sector in the State. The introduction of a scheme for importing high quality, high yielding semen of the recommended live stock can be introduced so that local live stock get up-graded for increased milk production. Milk and milk products are required to be marketed in an organized manner.

The increased involvement of the existing milk supply schemes at Jammu and Srinagar can be ensured and the lonees of the dairy units from different banks linked with these units for supply of milk can be benefited. Similar facility can be provided to other small milk producers by grouping them in different cooperative societies. The milk from the supply schemes can be marketed through the booths within municipal limits of the two capital cities. This facility can also be provided to the private milk producers.

The egg production in the state requires augmentation as 90% of our requirement is being met by imports from other states. Poultry parks are required to be established at Srinagar and Jammu and poultry needs to be declared as an industry. Encouraging establishment of large scale model farms for poultry will ease our requirements.

Decisions taken:-

Sr. No	Decision
1.	It was decided that the Board shall hold awareness camps in all the districts of the State and necessary allocation of funds shall be made available by the Government to the Board for holding such Camps.
2.	It was decided to start pilot project of construction of Vermi Compost Pits in each district of the State which would be identified by the Agriculture department after assessment of technical feasibility. It would be an endeavor to give boost to the organic farming.
3.	With regard to establishment of 400 Dairy Units, it was decided that planning department shall examine the proposal of the Animal Husbandry department and take action accordingly.
4.	It was decided to constitute sub groups by the Board consisting on experts and Kisan board members to frame solid and workable suggestions which can be implemented by the government for the welfare of common farmers.
5.	It was decided to construct Kisan Bhawan at Srinagar as one such Bhawan is under construction at Jammu.
6.	It was decided that Hon'ble Vice Chairman alongwith some members of the Board shall visit Andra Pradesh to acquaint themselves about the developments taking place in Agriculture sector in that State.