

Minutes of the first meeting of J&K State Advisory Board for Development of Kisans held on 20th of October; 2011 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister (Chairman of the Board).

Present:

1. Hon'ble Minister for Finance.
2. Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture.
3. Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development.
4. Hon'ble Minister for Irrigation and Flood Control.
5. Hon'ble Minister for Horticulture/Floriculture.
6. Hon'ble Minister for Animal/Sheep Husbandry.
7. Hon'ble Minister for Revenue.
8. Hon'ble Minister of State for Fisheries.
9. Hon'ble Advisor to Hon'ble Chief Minister
10. Hon'ble Political Advisor to Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Special Invitees

- 1 Ch. Mohammad. Ramzan , Hon'ble MLA
- 2 Shri Ajay Sadhotra, Hon'ble MLC
- 3 Shri Mushtaq Ahmad Bukhari, Hon'ble Vice Chairman Pahari Board
- 4 S. Tajinder Singh, Florist, Jammu
- 5 Shri Javaid Ahmad Hajam Orchardist, Shopian
- 6 Shri Tilak Raj Sharma, Rajouri
- 7 Shri Mumtaz Ahmad Khan, Rajouri.
- 8 Shri Babu Khan, Kalakote
- 9 Shri Fayaz Ahmad, Florist Harwan, Srinagar
- 10 Shri Haq Nawaz, Advocate, Rajouri

Besides, 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 Agriculture Production Department.
4. Principal Secretary to Government Planning & Development Department.
5. Principal Secretary to Government Irrigation & F.C Department.
6. Comm/Secretary to Government Finance 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. Comm/Secretary to Government Cooperative Department.
11. Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Srinagar.
12. Vice Chancellor SUKAST, Srinagar
13. Vice Chancellor SUKAST, Jammu
14. Registrar Cooperatives, Srinagar.
15. Special Secretary to Government Law Department.
16. Heads of Departments of Agriculture and allied departments.
17. Representative, J&K Bank, Srinagar.
18. General Manager, NABARD, Jammu.

The following Members of the Kisan Advisory Board were also present in the meeting:-

1. Shri Abdul Kabir Pathan, Kullar, Pahalgam, Anantnag.
2. Shri Gh. Qadir Mir, Rajpora, Pulwama
3. Shri D.P. Khajuria, Gandhingar, 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 Kulbushan Khajuria, Sohanjana (Jammu)
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,

15. Shri Sonallah Sheik, Handwara, Kupwara
16. Shri Tanveer Kitchloo, Kishtawar.
17. Haji Farooq Mir, Wavoora 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 Ab. Hamid Bhat, Samote Budhal, Rajouri.
23. Shri Ab. Rahim Rana, Samote Surankote, Poonch
24. Shri Prem Nath Noomi, Ladden, Udhampur.
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.

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 worsening plight 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 that farmers face in their daily drudgery. He further stated that although there are numerous boards based upon the markets, mandies, commodities etc in the country but the Advisory Board for Development of Kisans with a holistic and synergetic mission concentrated on welfare and development of farmers of the State was unique of its kind in the country.

The Secretary of the Board read out the agenda points which are annexed as Annexure "A"

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 are briefly mentioned as under:-

1. Installation of Juice/concentrate plants in the private Sector in rural areas for the culled fruits especially Apple. This will be in addition to the present market intervention scheme.
2. The present Crop Insurance Policy needs review so that the Crop losses suffered by the individual farmers are provided proper compensation. This will also require revitalization of the existing infrastructure and policy of National Insurance scheme being implemented in the State.
3. The soil Health cards need to be provided on priority to individual farmers once in three years for each crop season and its implications explained to the farmers for better crop production.

4. Agriculture implements (hand, Bullocks and Tractor driven) need to be made available to the farmers at the Headquarters of each sub Divisional Agricultural officer.
5. The Cherry and grape crops are suffering with some disease in Kashmir division. This requires further study and suitable control measures.
6. The scope of production of fish in cold water, running water and ponds is not being exploited as per potential available. This sector needs to be given priority by providing additional resources and awareness to the potential beneficiaries.
7. The J&K State is having different Agro-climatic Zones. The land holdings are small. The production of vegetables through proper planning & integration with modern Technology like glass Houses, green Houses, Poly Houses and use of hybrid seeds will increase the vegetable production. A well conceived project be formulated and taken up for implementation with proper association and involvement of Agricultural universities.
8. Kisan Bhawans to function as Nodal Stations for discussions, deliberations with experts by the farmers, conferences, etc are required to be constructed in each district. The MGNAREGA funds can be dovetailed with this programme.
9. Mushroom production is an area where our Agricultural Agro Climatic Zones will enable us to produce Mushroom throughout the year. The introduction of compost pasteurization was the main proposal for enhancing per unit output along with regular and timely supply of quality spawn and trainings.
10. The old Ranbir irrigation Canal, Partab irrigation canal, Ravi-Tawi Lift irrigation Schemes are main source of irrigation in Jammu. Closing of canals for annual repairs, de-silting etc be planned in consultation with Agriculture department and also associate the Panchayats to ensure better canal maintenance for proper water supply.
11. The installation of individual irrigation pump sets operated by Diesel and electric power are being provided by different agencies. There is need to ensure time bound arrangement for energisation of the installed electric units. The electric tariff for such units be charged for the period of actual use of electric power. The solar energy operated irrigation pump sets be also introduced and popularized in the potential areas on the pattern adopted in the States of Haryana and Punjab.
12. In the diary sector the importing of semen of High yielding live stock be introduced for ensuring of higher milk production.
13. Flower production including seed production is having vast potential in sub-topical and temperate zones of the State including Leh and Kargil. This requires to be exploited by formulating area based schemes on priority with proper backward and forward linkages.

14. Inputs play an important role in increasing Agricultural production. The storage and availability of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides including Zinc-sulphate be ensured at least one month in advance to the sowing season in all the areas of the State. The additional storage capacity for major procurement agencies and distribution outlets require augmentation. There is very slow progress on this account thus requires top priority by the State.
15. The net irrigated area of the State is about 3.13 Lakh hectares. The gross irrigated area is 4.7 lakh hectares. More than one Lakh hectares of irrigated area remains unsown in Kharief or Rabi seasons. There are Rabi fallows in the hill districts and this area can be cultivated under oilseeds, green vegetables like peas etc and requires special attention.
16. Potato production for seed purposes in the virus free zones has to be organized with the objective of marketing potato as seed to other States. All aspects of production, storage, and marketing have to be linked in advance for this programme.
17. Timely supply of fertilizers is very important for promoting Agricultural production. Present utilization of fertilizers is not in proper ratio as recommended by the Agricultural Scientists. Potash and Zinc-sulphate are having low consumption. To improve soil health and crop production, it is very important to subsidize the cost of these two inputs by 50%.
18. Training of farmers for adoption of package of practices have to be taken up at large scale to cover maximum number of farmers so as to aware them about crop cultivation before the start of crop season. This has to be organized as a campaign by association of Agri universities, Department of Agriculture and Societies of farmers etc.
19. Area adoption to popularize recommended practices on compact basis in each Agricultural sub division needs to be taken up so that farmers are educated and involved in this process right from soil Health cards.
20. The average production of Maize, Paddy and wheat in the State is less than the National Average. There is scope for increase in per unit production of these major crops by adopting intensive planning and introduction of Intensive Agricultural Production Programme by involving each beneficiary. These special projects were proposed for Maize, Paddy and wheat in the Districts where these crops are having highest cultivated area and programme to be implemented by specially constituted project team.
21. For supply of pesticides, fungicides and weedicides, it was suggested to have some reserve stocks of recommended products at the stores of sub divisional Agricultural officer alongwith suitable machinery as a contingent plan to meet the urgent requirements.
22. Kandi Development is very essential in our State where we have about 4 lakh of net sown area dependent on rains. This area requires special treatment for

water conservation, crop planning, manpower utilization etc. A well conceived Kandi development programme after identifying the thrust areas requires to be taken up on urgent basis. In this connection the past exercise done at the administrative level may also be examined.

23. Demonstration for recommended cropping pattern for each SDAO circle to be planned in consultation with SKUAST Kashmir/Jammu to popularize the same with the growers.
24. Special mention was made to have tube wells in the old Partab canal and similar other places where water supply is inadequate.
25. The Honey bees are important insect for pollination of Agriculture and other crops. The system being adopted in H.P to be examined and suitable programme formulated for the farmers of the State.
26. The available potential for honey bees in the State is for 3.00 lakh colonies whereas our presently existing strength is only 50.00 thousand colonies. The remaining potential can be utilized by effective coordination of the involved agencies like National Horticulture Board, Khadi and Village Industries Commission, KVIB, District Rural Development Agencies, the Department of Agriculture and Commercial Banks. For this purpose Agriculture department has to be declared nodal agency for this purpose where the required infrastructure is readily available. The Agricultural Universities have to play pivotal role in re-activating this important activity.
27. To meet the requirements of quality Comb Foundation sheets (CF Sheets) it was suggested to install computerized CF sheets Mill for ensuring timely availability of this item to the Bee keepers as these sheets are being procured from other States at present. It was also suggested to have scientific storage and support price for Honey.
28. The present Bee-keeping demonstration centers of Agriculture department to be specialized in different aspects of this Industry so that they act as suitable training stations for Bee-keeping.
29. The Model village Scheme of the Rural Development Department has created useful infrastructure in Rural areas. These villages be adopted by other departments functioning in Rural areas in respect of their schemes and formulate production plans of each crop holding by integrating all organizations jointly with the participation of Panchayats.
30. ATMA Scheme of Agriculture department has encouraged progressive farmers. These farmers may be adopted as village guides in areas of their specialization and utilize their services for implementing the departmental programmes in these villages.

31. The Agricultural Universities and KVK may be involved as carriers of technology to adopt at least one or two villages as per their preference and suitability for implementation of programmes of Agriculture and allied sectors as per recommended packages and practices.
32. Consolidation of land holding on voluntary basis to be adopted to benefit the interested farmers. A well conceived programme for consolidation of holding and issuance of pass books to the farmers be ensured.
33. Procurement of food grains in each crop season have to be a regular activity. It required to be planned ahead of crop harvesting season to avoid distress sales which lowers income and demoralizes the producer.
34. The commercial floriculture proves to be most lucrative sector in the State. As the farmers from far flung areas adopted this activity in large scale and made three times more returns from their traditional crops, it was suggested to make this sector more sustainable and profitable for which effective mechanism is required to popularize new technology. Establishment of two provincial level floriculture training centers for farmer's knowhow and floriculture extension are mostly required. For better marketing of this most perishable product, two regional level flower markets are urgently required to be established in the state with one sale outlet at Prithvi Raj Road, (Kashmir House) Delhi.
35. The Government should Introduce drip irrigation for floriculture and other sectors of agriculture on the pattern of matching grant system adopted by most progressive state of Gujarat and Haryana where 90% subsidy is being provided to the farmers by the Government.
36. J&K is the only State in India where Flower bulbs are propagated. It was trialed and tested by the various international agencies but it was painfully stated that lakhs of tulip bulbs are being imported from Holand every year which could be easily propagated in Kashmir and can save foreign exchange and provide job opportunities to unemployed youth. It was suggested that Government should announce J&K as a flower bulb propagating State and revive Nonar-Ganderbal Model Floriculture Farm to meet the demand of flower bulbs globally.
37. Ompora Industrial Estate (Budgam) be developed as a Commercial Floriculture Park where single window system and common infrastructure is required to be laid to give strength to this sector on the pattern of Telegaon Floriculture Park Pune (Maharashtra) where lakhs of spikes of flowers are being exported every day.
38. A new agriculture policy be devised keeping in view the cropping pattern, production of specialized crops and other aspects related to soil health with the primary objective of obtaining higher income from small holdings.
39. In the districts of Rajouri, Kathua, Ramban & other temperate areas, project based programmes are required to be formulated for the production of

horticulture produce by intensive cultivation of fruit plants like apple, Cherry, Walnut, stone fruits, peca nuts etc. Similar action is required for cultivation of Mango, Lechi, Guva, Amla, Locquate etc in sub tropical areas.

40. The rain water harvesting for Agriculture purposes is an important factor in promoting the scientific agriculture. It mostly goes waste and accelerates soil erosion thereby decreasing the soil fertility. Land shaping and construction of check Dams at proper locations be identified after field survey and constructions accordingly taken up under MGNEGRA and other schemes with effective participation of Panchayats. The water thus stored can be utilized for crop production through gravity or lift irrigation on individual or community basis as per ground situation.
41. Tissue culture laboratory be established for production of true to type plants of different crops and plants. It will enhance the availability of quality planting material for the farmers at cheaper rates.
42. Pashmina production in Ladakh region is almost stagnant for the last 20 years. It requires revival and increase in production with the objective of employment generation at local level and to provide raw material for Pashmina shawls and other products. The major suggestion was to provide Sprinkle irrigation as a Pilot project for pasture areas so as to increase the fodder availability and thereby ensuring rearing of increased number of Pashmina goats which will yield higher output of Pashmina wool.
43. Apricot of Ladakh is a monopoly item of J&K State. It was suggested to undertake more plantations and introduction of grading system on large scale by involving local unemployed youth.
44. For Ladakh region, it was suggested to provide poly/green Houses for rapid increase in cultivation of vegetable crops. The Army is the major buyer available for this purpose. Similar action was proposed for higher production for poultry and fish culture. Off season cut flowers are having tremendous scope in Leh which also needs special attention.
45. The revitalization of green manure, Vermi compost production and farm yard manure were suggested for increasing the availability of organic matter for crop production and also taking organic farming on selective basis.
46. Milk, cheese and curd be marketed in the State on the pattern of Gujarat. Similarly study of various handicrafts products in Raibareli (U.P) was also mentioned. A group of lady farmers was suggested to be deputed to a visit U.P and Gujarat for study of formulation of Self Help Groups and marketing of the products.
47. The programme of issuance of Kisan Credit Cards by the Banks and co-operative Societies requires to be accelerated as a time bound activity.
48. The net cultivated area in the state is stagnant at about 7.00 lakh hectares. Annually there is very small increase in cultivated area. The waste land

available in different districts require ground identification and demarcation and taken up for reclamation to put it to proper use for cultivation.

49. In certain areas of the State, complaints are being made about the sale of spurious fertilizers. It requires to be investigated and action taken at the earliest.
50. For creation of staff for the Board it was suggested that the required manpower and other items for running the full fledged office both at Srinagar and Jammu be made available at the earliest.
51. The Board meetings should be held twice in a year preferably in the months of September and February with the object of having review and planning for Rabi and Kharief crop seasons.
52. It was also suggested that Law Department be impressed upon to frame rules and regulations for the Board so that every work is done under prescribed rules and regulations.
53. It was suggested that the Members of the State Kisan Advisory Board shall be allowed to participate in the District Development Board Meetings of their respective districts.

The following decisions were taken in the meeting:-

1. It was agreed that the Board will hold awareness camps/orientation training programmes throughout the State with effective participation of the line departments and necessary allocation of funds shall be made available by the Government to the Board for holding such Camps/Orientation Programmes. During the current fiscal Rs. 25.00 lakhs were ordered to be released and subsequently Rs.75.00 lakhs will be allocated during the year 2012-13.
2. It was agreed to release the funds to the Board as per requirements for construction of 100 number of Vermi Compost Pits in each district which would be identified by the Agriculture department after assessment of technical feasibility.
3. With regard to establishment of Dairy Units, it was agreed to establish 400 units in the first instance in five districts and the allocation of funds to the tune of Rs.2.00 Crores will be made available to the Board for the purpose during the next financial year. The subsidy component of Rs.0.10 lakh for each beneficiary will be released by the Board for the units identified surveyed after field assessment by the department of Animal Husbandry.
4. It was agreed to release of Rs. 2.00 Crores to Horticulture/Floriculture Department for development of horticulture/floriculture in the State.
5. For initiating the negotiations with Haryana Marketing Board for acquisition of 10 hectares of land at Ghanoor (Haryana) for the purpose of export/import of Horticulture produce, it was decided that the proposal will be examined by the Administration Department (Horticulture).
6. With regard to construction of Kisan Bhawans at Srinagar, Jammu and Amritsar, it was decided that the proposal will be considered during the next meeting of the Board.
7. Regarding creation of administrative staff for the Board, it was decided that a collective decision will be taken for creation of posts for various Boards. However, it was desired that the requirement of staff may be reflected and sent to GAD for appropriate action.
8. It was agreed to depute 5-10 ladies including the lady members of Kisan Board to Raibareli (U.P) & Ahmadabad (Gujarat) for acquainting themselves with the methods adopted in these areas for marketing of various goods including dairy products so as to empower the women entrepreneurs for establishing such units in the State through Self Help Groups.
9. It was agreed to provide solar lights on the recommendations of the Kisan Board in un-electrified areas.
10. It was agreed that wherever the Hon'ble Vice Chairman of Kisan Board feels his inability to attend the District Development Board meeting, he can nominate any member of the Board of the concerned district to participate in the District Development Board meeting of the said district.

11. It was agreed to invite the members of the Kisan Board in seminars, conferences, discussions, training programmes and other farmer friendly activities held by Agriculture and allied departments besides the SKAUST Srinagar and Jammu.

12. It was agreed to hold two meetings of the Kisan Board in a year one each at Srinagar and Jammu respectively and the next meeting will be held at Jammu in the month of April 2012.

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

(G. N. Mir)
Secretary

Annexure "A"

1.	To suggest measures to enhance income of the farmers by crop diversification, value addition and improved marketing through Cooperatives and other means.
2.	To examine the functioning of the delivery system of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc. and suggest measures to make improvement including enhancement in storage and delivery points linked with proper time schedule of Kharief/Rabi crops. The linkages with credit availability from nationalized and Cooperative Banks through the mechanism of Kisan Credit Cards.
3.	To review the current status of water use for Agriculture and make recommendations for a rational, efficient and sustainable exploitation of ground, surface and rain water for enhanced agricultural productivity. The suitable changes in the cropping pattern wherever necessary will also be the part of the review.
4.	To make suggestions on improved implementation of the crop insurance scheme as well as on other risk coverage mechanisms primarily for Agriculture, Horticulture and vegetables.
5.	To study and suggest measures for implementing micro-financing system for upliftment of the farmers at grassroot level. This practice has transformed the agriculture economy of Bangladesh.
6.	To study and suggest measures for development of floriculture as an income generating activity for the rural youth with special reference to the peculiar agro climatic conditions of the State.
7.	To make efforts for the revival of Cooperative movement in the State. It will also recommend the establishment of new Cooperative Societies for the benefit of the farmers.
8.	To make efforts for development of trout and other kind of fish culture in the State by way of providing all facilities including Hi- tech training, credit, equipments, feed and storage etc. to the farmers at specific places through Fisheries department.
9.	To examine the ways and means to promote Sericulture production in the State with the objective of providing employment to the village youth and land less workers.
10.	To make projections in M.G NREGA and other schemes in Rural Development sector which shall be suitably examined and entertained after assessing the feasibility by the concerned Panchayat/Block while formulating the action plan. It will also suggest scope of the dev-tailing of M.G NREGA with agriculture production.

11.	To make recommendations for systematic marketing of Apple and other temperate fruits after study of markets, local production pattern and possibilities of value addition. Also revival of "Ambri" apple variety should be in focus of board.
12.	To Organize awareness Camps at all the district and Block headquarters where the demonstration of modern agricultural equipments and technology shall be made to make the farmers skilled to utilize the technology.
13.	To make efforts to establish Dairy/sheep units in large scale under Dairy Entrepreneurship Development Scheme through Cooperatives to overcome the milk/meat crises in the State.
14.	To make efforts for construction of Kisan Bhawans at Provincial and District level which shall function as multipurpose demonstration centres to be known as "Kisan Service Centres".
15.	To make emphasis for the formulation and popularisation of soil health cards from Soil testing laboratories for adoption of the recommended crop rotations in the state alongwith the revival of the programmes of green manuring, Vermicompost and other soil improvement measures.
16.	To direct all the Officers of the State involved in the Agriculture Production Programmes to respond to the requirements of the Kisan Board.
17.	To propose after study the need to give special thrust for development of Karewa and Kandi areas.
18.	To make publicity of all the welfare schemes of the Government (regarding agriculture and allied sectors) in print, electronic and through publication of pamphlets.

Besides, the following suggestions are made for the approval of the house and orders issued accordingly:-

1.	That the Members of the State Advisory Board for Development of Kisans shall be invited/called to participate in their respective District Development Board Meetings enabling them to highlight the problems of the Kisan community.
2.	That the Board Members at State, district and block level shall be taken into confidence while framing the annual plans at state district and block levels by the concerned Agriculture and allied departments.
3.	That the Kisan Board Members shall be invited by the SKUAST Srinagar/Jammu in their Seminars, Work Shops and in other activities held by them and should extend every support whenever sought by the Board.
4.	That the Bankers shall be liable to process the loan cases of unemployed youth identified by the Kisan Board and sponsored by the concerned department and intimate the Board about the progress and action taken. They may also attend the Kisan Board meetings as and when called.
5.	That the Board shall initiate negotiations with the Haryana Marketing Board for acquisition of 10 hectares of land at Ganoor, (Near International Airport Delhi) Haryana for establishment of fruit mandi for the State for export purposes.
6.	Orders are solicited for framing of rules and regulations for the Board.