



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
State Advisory Board for Development of Kisans
2nd Floor, Pragati Bhawan Rail Head Complex, | LL: 0191-2479837
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Subject: Minutes of meeting held on 27-12-2017 at 2nd Floor, Pragati Bhawan, Rail Head Complex, Jammu regarding issues of Farmers involved in propagation of fish in the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

Present:

1. Sh. R N Pandita, Director Fisheries, J&K Fisheries Department
2. Sh. K K Khajuria, Joint Director Fisheries (Projects), J&K Fisheries Department
3. Sh. S S Sharma, Joint Director Fisheries (Territorial J&K Fisheries Department).
4. Sh. Khalid Mehmud, Executive Engineer JAKEDA

Other Participants

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| 1. Sh. D P Khajuria | State Board Member |
| 2. Sh. M M War | State Board Member |
| 3. Sh. Ankush Choudhary | State Board Member |
| 4. Sh. Subash Dasgotra | State Board Member |
| 5. Sh. Manga Ram | Progressive Farmer |
| 6. Sh. Hans Raj | Progressive Farmer |
| 7. Sh. Multan Singh | Progressive Farmer |
| 8. Sh. Rajinder Kumar | Progressive Farmer |

At the outset of the meeting, Sh. Abdul Hamid Wani, Secretary J&K State Advisory Board for Development of Kisans welcomed the Officers and other participants. He presented the agenda of the meeting and intimated that meeting has been called to hear the problems of the fish farmers so that jointly some possible solutions can be worked out , to address these problem, so the fishermen of this State can enhance their farm income and live a dignified life in the society. Besides, to achieve the dream of Prime Minister of India to double the income of farmers by the year 2022, the steps taken by the Department of Fisheries regarding diversification and undergoing for multi-cropping system in the fields of these fishermen is the theme of today's meeting.

During the course of meeting, the each progressive farmer was given chance to highlight his problems so that common comprehensive strategy is evolved for finding out the permanent and

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ever lasting solution to these problems. Sh. Rajinder Kumar one of the progressive farmer of District Kathua intimated, that the farmers who have adopted cultivation of fish as the source of their livelihood face marketing problems, and the middlemen takes a lion's share thereby jeopardizing the rights of growers. He further expressed that the farmers cultivate fish at isolated places in their fields away from habitations, and there is no accessibility of normal electricity and the farmers use then traditional kerosene lamps during night hours to attend their fish ponds to feed the fish. Hence these farmers need an alternative source of renewable energy at these work places, who can then improve their earnings while cultivating fish smoothly and efficiently. Sh. Multan Singh another progressive farmer from District Kathua expressed that farmers are paying high prices for fish seed which on the other hand is available in our neighboring state on lower rates. He further informed that the Department of Fisheries issues large size fish catching nets under subsidy schemes which are not only costly but the fishermen requires extra efforts during fishing, which otherwise required is small size.

Shri R. N. Pandita, Director Fisheries Department J&K Government, presented the complete profile of fisheries sector of Jammu and Kashmir State. He informed that the Government of India has identified various schemes for development of fish in the country to boost fish production and create avenues of better earnings for the fish farmers and the professional fishermen engaged in the exploitation of natural water resources. He presented the status report of each scheme and informed in the meeting, that the Department of Fisheries J&K Government, is providing 70mm size fish seed to the farmers, whileas at Gurdaspur Punjab the farmers buy very small size fish seed although on low rates, but their mortality rate is very high as compared to large size fish seed supplied by the Department of Fisheries J&K Government to its farmers. He further informed that the Department of Fisheries is already working, to build a vibrant marketing platform and necessary infrastructure is being raised for the fishermen of the State, who can sell their fish through these marketing platforms under a cordial atmosphere to fetch them good prices. In its initial phase, the department is going to purchase four multi utility refrigerated vehicles which can be stationed at District headquarters for the use of Progressive fishermen on nominal higher charges who can bring the fish from their fish ponds to the cities where they can sell them on good and reasonable prices, which will definitely defeat the culture of middlemen. Shri R. N. Pandita, Director Fisheries Department J&K Government further informed that with the advent of Blue Revolution in the State, various farmer oriented schemes have been implemented to enhance the fish production and large number of unemployed youth of Jammu and Kashmir State are now eager to adopt propagation and cultivation of fish under private sector as a means of their livelihood. He expressed confidence that the department of Fisheries has miles to go to do a lot for its farmers, which however is only possible when the Government of Jammu and Kashmir shall provide an open heart support to the Department.

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The meeting was attended by the Executive Engineer, who represented Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JKEDA) J&K Govt. Informed that the JKEDA are providing 24 Watt solar module having provision of four bulbs fitted with 20AH Battery as a source of renewable energy under 100% subsidy to the citizens living in those areas which have no accessibility for normal electricity. He further informed that JKEDA also provides 7watt solar lighting system fitted on tubular pole to such areas which are still not covered with normal electricity. The Executive Engineer JKEDA suggested that Jammu and Kashmir State Advisory Board for Development of Kisans should recommend the names of such progressive Farmers involved in Fisheries sector that needs installation of solar home lighting system as an alternative source of renewable energy at their fish ponds, enabling them to grow fish smoothly and efficiently.

Shri Daljit Singh Chib, (MoS) Hon'ble Vice Chairman, J&K State Advisory Board for Development of Kisans briefed about commitments of the Government and expressed hope that department of Fisheries will actively work on the schemes of Government regardless of race, creed or circumstances to achieve overall growth of fish in the State. Shri Daljit Singh Chib expressed that the Board is committed to reach every farmer and endeavors that the dream of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India for doubling the income of farmers by 2022 shall in real sense become true. He further added that today's meeting was called to hear the problems of farmers who are associated with propagation of fish so that a strategy can be jointly evolved for timely redressal of their problems. Shri Daljit Singh chib, Hon'ble vice Chairman J&K State Advisory Board for Development of Kisans advised the officers of Department of Fisheries to take steps for diversification and help farmers for adopting multi cropping in their fields to enhance their income. He further gave on spot directions to Director Fisheries to prepare the list of such fishermen who need renewable energy source to be installed in their fish ponds and forwarded the same to the Chief Executive Officer Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency J&K Govt. under intimation to this Board.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks.


(Abdul Hamid Wani)

Secretary

J&K State Advisory Board for
Development of Kisans