



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
State Advisory Board for Development of Kisans
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Subject: Minutes of in house Meeting held on 20-11-2017, under Sh. Daljit Singh Chib, the Hon'ble Vice Chairman (MoS) J&K State Advisory Board for Development of Kisans at Board office at 2nd Floor, Pragati Bhawan, Rail Head Complex, Jammu regarding issues of Farmers of J&K State.

Present:

1. Sh. Rakesh Khajuria, Managing Director, Agro Industries Development Corporation.
2. Dr. Majid Manzoor Khan, Chief Operating Officer, Entrepreneurship Development Institute J&K Government.
3. Sh. Shiv Charan, Member
4. Sh. Amrik Singh, Member
5. Sh. Parkash Singh, Member
6. Sh. Rajinder Parshad, Member
7. Sh. Mohinder Paul Sudan, Member
8. Sh. Swaran Singh Bhan, Member
9. Capt. Kasturi Lal Sharma, Member
10. Choudhary Dev Raj, Member
11. Sh. Subash Dasgotra, Member
12. Sh. Narayan Dutt Tripathi, Member
13. Sardar Tajinder Singh, Member
14. Sardar Dhunda Singh, Member
15. Sh. Ankush Choudhary, Member
16. Kr. Chain Singh, Member
17. Sh. Surinder Singh, Member
18. Sh. Devinder Singh, Member
19. Sh. Madan Choudhary, Member

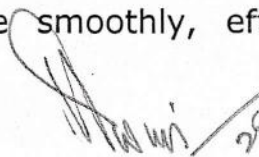
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Besides the, meeting was attended by following progressive women farmers.

1. Smt. Urmila Andotra
2. Smt. Reva Khajuria
3. Smt. Neeru Rajput

At the outset of the meeting, Sh. Abdul Hamid Wani, Secretary J&K State Advisory Board for Development of Kisans welcomed the Officers and Board members. He then presented the agenda of the meeting and intimated that today's in house meeting has been called to ask feedback from Board members regarding progress of paddy procurement centers opened in the state during current season and also the Board wants suggestions from Hon'ble members regarding timely requirement of seed, fertilizers and arrangement of irrigation facilities for upcoming Rabi season crops especially wheat. The Board wants to know the problems faced by our farmers and the shortcomings/bottlenecks if any observed by them, which hindered the smooth paddy procurement programme 2017 and seeks suggestions from Board Members for further improvements in the system. The Secretary informed that Jammu and Kashmir State Advisory Board for Development of Kisans arranged 7 days training programme with effect from 23/10/2017 to 29/10/2017 for 9 Women Farmers of Jammu Division on **Post-Harvest processing of fresh fruits and vegetables** through Indian Council of Agriculture and Research, Pusa New Delhi and the aim of this initiative taken first time by this Board was, that after obtaining training in food processing technology, these women farmers can make the best use of surplus fruits and vegetables which otherwise gets wasted in absence of market and cold storage and with the best use of surplus fruits and vegetables the women can increase their farm income. In today's meeting the Board has called experts from Agro Industries Development Corporation and Entrepreneurship Development Institute J&K Govt. to guide and advice our women farmers for framing the self- help groups to start their own units as a source of their livelihood.

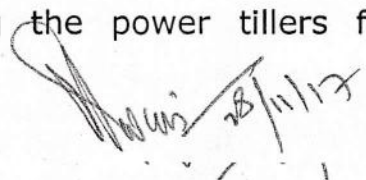
The Board Members appreciated the efforts of the J&K State Advisory Board for Development of Kisans in facilitating the opening of Paddy Procurement Centers through Food Corporation of India in the State which helped Farmers to sell their produce smoothly, efficiently and without

 28/11/17

intervention of black marketing and the Farmers got relief from the clutches of middlemen culture. All the Board Members in one voice lauded the initiative of J&K State Advisory Board for Development of Kisans for deputing 9 Women Farmers to Indian Agriculture Research Institute Pusa, New Delhi where these Women Farmers got exposure in "Post-Harvest Technology of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables" so that they can work side by side with their families in increasing the farm income. Every Board Member was asked to speak on the challenges before our Farmers so that the collective decisions and suggestions shall be recommended to the Government for early redressal.

Sh. D. P Khajuria, (Ex. Director Agriculture Department, Jammu) Board Member, expressed that the Agriculture Production Department J&K Govt. should be directed for timely supply of inputs for both early varieties and late varieties of crops. He has intimated that there are reports of use of imbalance of fertilizers in Farmer's fields resulting not only decrease in production of crops but also deterioration in quality of food crops. He has suggested that Agriculture Production Departments should be asked to give demonstrations regarding balanced use of fertilizers in farmer's fields especially in Reasi District. Shri Khajuria further suggested that in rainfed areas of Jammu District the Farmers should be advised to cultivate pulses in their fields. He has informed that the Agriculture Production Department does not keep sufficient stock of vegetable seeds, resulting farmers get forced to purchase these seeds from private entrepreneurs on higher costs. He further suggested, that to make the procurement programme of state more vibrant and farmer friendly, the marketing societies needs to be rejuvenated and revived.

Choudhary Dev Raj Board Member R.S Pura, Jammu appreciated the role of J&K State Advisory Board for Development of Kisans in facilitating the Farmers to sell their produce through procurement centers. However he highlighted that in some procurement centers, there was shortage of manpower, which needs to be addressed in future. Choudhary Dev Raj informed, that during this year there was witnessed a bumper crop of Basmati Rice which fetched good returns to the Farmers, however the rates of Basmati Rice did not remained uniform as such the Government should standardize the rates for Basmati crop. He further informed that the Farmers face some administrative problems in purchasing the power tillers for their fields


28/11/17

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available on subsidized rates, which needs to be addressed. Choudhary Dev Raj informed that there are about 200 Kanals of land under Basmati Rice at R.S. Pura Border falling under the BSF camp, and farmers feel it difficult to cultivate this land efficiently and properly, and most of the crops get destroyed due to frequent trespassing of BSF troops there. He suggested that issue should be taken up with BSF High Command to either vacate this land or to pay compensation to the Farmers. Choudhary Dev Raj informed that KCC loans have been linked with Aadhar Card resulting the Kisans are unable to avail other loans and subsidies available in other Agriculture sectors unless and until the farmer does not repay the loan amount earlier received by him through Bank. He requested that this issue needs to be sorted out.

Sardar Tajinder Singh, Board Member expressed that the Jammu and Kashmir State Advisory Board under the dynamic leadership of Sh. Daljit Singh Chib, Hon'ble Vice Chairman is doing a commendable job for the upliftment of farmers and for overall agriculture development in the state of Jammu and Kashmir. He highlighted that Board should also pursue with concerned departments for rural infrastructure development and permanent procurement mandies should be established for farmers. He requested that there should buyer seller meetings held at village level. He further suggested that the Board members should work in coordination with the farmers, to inform them about the schemes of the government. Sardar Tajinder Singh requested that Agro-shops should be opened at railway stations, airports and other public places to ensure proper and healthy marketing to the produce of farmers. (Fallow up of Agro-Industries Development Corporation J&K Government).

Sardar Dhunda Singh member J&K State Advisory Board for Development of Kisans informed that District Kathua has a tremendous potential for turmeric crop and maximum farmers are cultivating this crop in the district. However due to non-availability of proper marketing facilities, the Kisans does not get desired prices. He requested that J&K State Advisory Board for Development of Kisans should direct concerned authorities to address the issue of marketing.

Sh. Chain Singh Board Member, representing District Reasi highlighted, that the procurement centre established by Food Corporation of India has been housed in a very small space which does not suffice the need of farmers

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of district Reasi. He informed that the canals and khuls of district Reasi need desilting to ensure efficient irrigation facilities to the farmers. Sh. Chain Singh requested that J&K State Advisory Board for Development of Kisans should conduct a Farmers and Scientists meet in District Reasi so that the Agriculture land in the district can be exploited on scientific lines in view of the facts that the District Reasi has a distinct type of topography which is suitable for Walnut, Kalimirch and Ginger cultivation.

Sh. Shiv Charan, Board Member representing Ramnagar and Basantgarh area of District Udhampur highlighted that the procurement and marketing system in the District Udhampur needs to be strengthened so that farmers can sell their produce on desired and competitive prices. He further requested that the Department of Horticulture should be approached for providing high density plants to the farmers in the District. Since the Ramnagar and Basantgarh areas are economically poor and farming is the only source of livelihood, hence more farmers needs to be covered under KCC loan scheme. He further highlighted that Ramnagar and Basantgarh areas are rich in maize production and hence the maize procurement centres should be opened during maize harvesting period.

Sh. Amrik Singh, Board Member representing District Doda, informed that the major crops of district Doda are cereals and pulses besides walnut and apple. The farmers face difficulties in selling their produce on competitive basis in absence of proper marketing facilities and genuine buyers. He suggested that in Doda District, the walnut villages should be identified and the farmers should be given training and necessary infrastructures for flourishing this industry needs to be build there. Sh. Amrik Singh informed that although fruit mandies have been established by the government at Doda but the shops have not been allotted to the growers. He requested that J&K State Advisory Board for Development of Kisans should take up this issue with Director Horticulture and Marketing besides the cooperative societies should be involved for buying the farmer's produce. He has expressed that all vegetables in Doda district are purely grown on organic farming and to exploit it properly, the organic vegetable zones needs to be developed there with efficient marketing so that the concept of doubling of income of farmers shall come true in the real sense. Sh. Amrik Singh emphasized that the "**Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana**" in the district Doda needs to be made

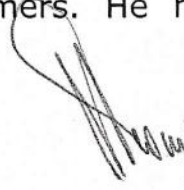
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more vibrant so that farmers can have better irrigation facilities. He requested Hon'ble Vice Chairman J&K State Advisory Board for Development of Kisans that the Agriculture land of district Doda needs to be studied by Soil Scientists to check its viability for the crops suitable to be grown there, besides there is a need to establish cold storage facility in view of the facts that apple has a very less shelf life and in absence of cold storage facilities the huge quantity of apple gets damaged.

Sh. Parkash Singh Jamwal, Board Member representing District Jammu highlighted that the seeds for various types of pulses supplied by the Agriculture Department during the year 2017 were not of desired quality which caused a heavy damage to the farmers. He requested that the Agriculture Department should be advised to ensure good quality seeds under proper certification. He has requested that marketing societies needs to be revived in the state of Jammu and Kashmir so that the marketing of farmer's produce shall become more vibrant and efficient.

Sh. Mahinder Paul Sudan Board Member, Sunderbani area highlighted that Mushroom cultivation is the main crop in Sunderbani area. However to increase its production and quality, an awareness is required among farmers to grow it on scientific lines. He has requested that Board should take up this issue with Agriculture Production Department Jammu to depute the team of Agriculture mushroom specialists there.

Captain (Retired) Kasturi Lal Sharma, Board Member representing Jammu highlighted that due to high speed wind, the standing crops (Paddy) during this current year at Raiper Domana villages got damaged and the farmers were not given any compensation under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana as such risk is not covered in Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. He requested that the provision of damage to crops due to high wind speed may also be incorporated in this Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. He further emphasized that while fixing of Maximum Support Price (MSP) for farmer's produce, the farmers opinion should also be given weightage, as the farmer knows his input costs involved on cultivation and production of his crops.

Sh. Rajinder Parshad Board Member representing Bishnah Tehsil informed that the potato seed supplied by Agriculture Department is of very old variety which gives very less yield to the farmers. He has requested that the

 28/11/17

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Agriculture Department may be asked to promote Tissue Culture Technology in potato among the farmers.

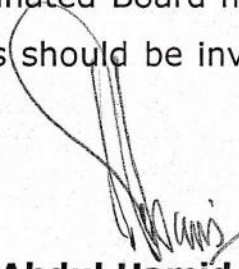
The women farmers who went to training through Indian Council of Agriculture Research New Delhi were also called in the meeting to give their feedback regarding the training they achieved in Post-Harvest Technology of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables". Smt. Neeru Rajput one of the women farmers who underwent this training informed in the meeting that the training programme was very informative and shall help us in earning livelihood independently. All the women farmers in general appreciated this initiative of J&K State Advisory Board for Development of Kisans and they expressed confidence that they will make self-help groups for effective use of this training achieved by them.

The Managing Director Agro-Industries Development Corporations informed that the Agro-Industries Development Corporations is providing a marketing plat-form to the farmer's produce where they sell their products on reasonable rates. He further informed that the Agro-Industries Development Corporations have also such training institutes providing training in food processing and he advised that the Board can send farmers also there for such type of trainings. The Managing Director Agro-Industries Development Corporations informed that the corporation also purchases surplus vegetables and fruits from the farmers and he informed in the meeting that J&K Government is in a process to build infrastructure for high value vegetables produced by farmers which can be sold there under three brands viz Kashmir brand, Jammu brand and Ladakh brand.

The Chief Operating Officer, Entrepreneurship Development Institute J&K Govt. who was present in the meeting informed that the institute is giving Skill Development and Capacity building training to the unemployed youth of Jammu and Kashmir State, enabling them to earn their livelihood and to live a dignified life. He has informed that the institute also provides capacity building and skill Development under "Seed Capital Fund Scheme" to those unemployed youth of Jammu and Kashmir State who are not in a position to afford margin money for establishing their small scale units having subsidy facility available with the governments. In such projects, the Entrepreneur Development Institute of J&K Government provides 35% of the project cost which is non-refundable as margin money of the entrepreneur. He

emphasized that Board members should make awareness of this scheme among the youth in their respective districts.

Speaking on the occasion, Sh. Daljit Singh Chib, the Hon'ble Vice Chairman (MoS) said that J&K State Advisory Board for development of Kisans is committed for the welfare of farmers of the state. He said that there is urgent need to establish permanent procurement mandies and more Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the state for which J&K State Advisory Board for Development of Kisans has already approached Union Agriculture Ministry for providing special funds to the state govt. The Hon'ble Vice Chairman (MoS) assured the Board members that the revival of Cooperative Societies for efficient and competitive procurement and marketing system of agriculture produce shall be taken up with the Hon'ble Chief Minister (Chairperson) of the Board. He further assured, that all the issues raised by the Board members shall be taken up with respective departments for early action. Highlighting the role of women in Agriculture, the Hon'ble Vice Chairman expressed confidence that the Kisan Board will help these recently trained women farmers through **Indian Agriculture Research institute, Pusa, New Delhi** for making Self-help Groups so that they can establish their own Processing Units in order earn their own livelihood and to live a dignified life in the society. However he advised these women farmers to educate and train other women farmers to establish their own processing units. Sh. Daljit Singh Chib, Hon'ble Vice Chairman (MoS) gave on spot instructions to the Secretary of the Board that he should write to all Head of the Departments under Agriculture Sector and all Deputy Commissioners ,that the Nominated Board members of J&K State Advisory Board for Development of Kisans should be invited in the meetings pertaining to their districts.


(Abdul Hamid Wani)

Secretary
J&K State Advisory Board for
Development of Kisans