

FIRST MEETING OF HARYANA KISAN AYOOG



AGENDA

Date : September 10, 2010

Time : 3.00 P.M.

Venue : Committee Room, Fletcher Bhavan, CCSHAU, Hisar

Haryana Kisan Ayog, Government of Haryana
CCSHAU Campus, Hisar

1ST MEETING OF HARYANA FARMERS' COMMISSION

AGENDA

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Item No. 3: Discussion on Terms of Reference for the Commission.

The Government of Haryana notified the constitution of Farmers' Commission for the state vide No. 1919-Agri.II(1)-2010/9677 dated 15th July, 2010 (Copy at Annexure – 1). The notification has laid down the following terms of reference for the Commission:

1. To review the current status of Haryana agriculture, its performance, strength and weaknesses, assess the condition of different categories of farmers in various agro-climatic sub-regions and work out a comprehensive strategy for achieving sustainable and equitable agricultural development of the State.
2. To analyze the factors responsible for the decline in farm income and suggest measures to enhance income of the farmers through market-deiven crop diversification, improved marketing, hassle-free regulatory and fiscal regime, value addition and agro-processing.
3. To propose methods of enhancing the productivity, profitability, stability and sustainability of the major farming systems of the State based on an agro ecological and agro-climatic approach and the harnessing of frontier technologies.
4. To suggest a viable and compatible crop (including horticulture) – livestock – fish integrated system and synergy between agriculture and allied sectors.
5. To bring about synergy between technology and public policy and recommend measures for enhancing income and employment potential in rural areas through diversification, application of appropriate technology including IT for information on market, weather, credit facilities and e-commerce, training and market reforms.
6. To examine the current input use efficiency and functioning of the delivery systems for seeds, pesticides and credit and to suggest improvement therein.
7. To review the current status of water use for agriculture, its performance and potential and make recommendations for a rational, efficient and sustainable exploitation of ground and surface water for enhanced agricultural productivity.
8. To suggest measures for enhancing the quality and cost competitiveness of farm commodities so as to make them globally competitive through providing necessary facilities and application of frontier science and promote quality literacy for codex alimentarius standard, sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures among farmers through reorienting and retooling extension machinery.

9. To suggest comprehensive policy reforms designed to enhance investment in agri-research, substantially increase flow of rural credit to farmers including small and marginal, triggering agricultural growth led economic progress, which can lead to opportunities for a healthy and productive life to rural families.
10. To suggest measures to attract and retain educated youth in farming and recommend for this purpose; methods of technological upgrading of crop husbandry, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries (inland and marine), agro-forestry and agro-processing and associated marketing infrastructure.
11. To consider any other issue, which is relevant to the above or is specially referred to the Ayog by the State Government.

Above ToRs are placed before the Commission for general discussion and suggestions concerning future action plan.

Item No. 4: Formation of Working Groups.

The terms of reference for the Commission have been given under Agenda Item No. 3. These show that the mandate of the Commission is quite broad in nature. It encompasses various sectors and facets of agriculture and farmers. In order to address the ToRs, it is proposed to constitute the following Working Groups:

1. Conservation Agriculture and Farm Mechanization.
2. Water Management (including micro-irrigation).
3. Rainfed Area Development.
4. Input Use and Supply (seed, bio-fertilizers, fertilizers, bio-pesticides, pesticides).
5. GIS and Land Use Planning for Crop Diversification (including Horticulture).
6. Protected Cultivation (vegetables and floriculture).
7. Linking Farmers to Market (including market, credit, insurance, export and policy issues).
8. Development of Animal Husbandry.
9. Fishery Sector Development.
10. Empowerment of youth and women in agriculture.

Further, it is proposed that:-

1. The Chairman may constitute these working groups involving 3 – 5 experts in each.
2. Members of working group be paid TA for attending meetings on actual basis and an honorarium of Rs. 2000/- for each meeting.
3. Members to be entitled for a lumpsum honorarium of Rs. 25000/- each and the Chairman of each Working Group to be paid Rs. 50,000/- on submission of report.
4. The Commission will bear the cost on typing, printing etc. and for conducting meetings. If any meeting is to be held by the group elsewhere; the expenses to be paid on actual basis.

Item No. 5: Procedure/methods for having broad-based consultations with farmers.

Besides obtaining expert opinion of professionals in agriculture, it is felt that there is need to have direct-consultation with farmers. This would ensure a bottom-up approach. The following strategy is, therefore, proposed for this purpose:

The Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Haryana has established Farmers' Clubs in each district. Meetings of these Clubs are organized regularly by the Deputy Director Agriculture, concerned. It is proposed to request them to seek the opinion of farmers based on a general questionnaire (Annexure -2). The responses so received will be studied and analysed to assess their specific needs.

It is also proposed to organize consultation meetings with selected progressive farmers in the following three agro-climatic regions of the State:

Sub-Region-1	Sub-Region-2	Sub-Region-3
Sirsa	Panchkula	Mahendergarh
Fatehabad	Yamuna Nagar	Rewari
Bhiwani	Kurukshetra	Palwal
Rohtak	Panipat	Mewat
Jind	Kaithal	Jhajjar
Hisar – Venue	Sonipat	Faridabad
	Ambala	Gurgaon – Venue
	Karnal-Venue	

The Deputy Director (Agriculture), Dy. Director (Animal Husbandry), Distt. Horticulture Officers and the Coordinators of KVKs in each district would be requested to identify around five progressive farmers from their respective districts. Accordingly, there will be 20 farmers selected from each district who will be invited for a face to face meeting sub-region wise as listed above. Besides, Chairman and members, the Directors of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Horticulture departments will also be invited to participate in these interactions.

It is also proposed to issue an advertisement in the regional newspapers seeking opinion/suggestions from the farmers, associations, co-operatives etc from within the State of Haryana.

On the basis of information so received and the interactions with farmers, an in-depth analysis will be done to understand important needs/problems of the farmers that need priority attention, especially for appropriate steps to be taken by the Commission.

The matter is placed before the Commission for further deliberation and advice.

Item No. 6: Draft Policy on Agriculture for Haryana.

In a meeting with the Hon'ble Chief Minister held on 19-08-2010, and attended by the Chairman, members and member-secretary besides PS/CM and APS/CM, it was agreed at the suggestion of the Chairman that the Haryana Kisan Ayog should take up the task of framing a draft policy on agriculture for Haryana for consideration of the Government.

Accordingly, it is proposed that a group of experts (2-3) will be constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. S. Mruthyunjaya, Ex-National Director, AIP, ICAR. It is expected that the first draft would be placed before the Commission in the three months for its consideration and further refinement before submission to the Government.

Proposed action in this regard is for approval of the Commission.

Item No. 7: Rules and Procedures.

a) For Undertaking Studies:

As per para 6 of the guidelines/instructions for governing the functioning of the Haryana State Farmers' Commission issued vide Memo. No. 2028-Agri.II(1)-2010/10694 dated 5-8-2010 (Copy at Annexure -3), the following provision exists:

“The Commission may get studies conducted on the issues mentioned in the terms of reference of the Commission, which may involve financial outlay upto Rs. 15 lacs”.

It is proposed that the Chairman may have the financial powers to sanction specific studies/pilot projects related to the mandate of the Commission to be conducted by SAUs, ICAR Institutes, other advance research or development organizations or individual experts or reputed NGOs/Pvt. Sector institutions, for an amount upto Rs. 15 lacs in each case through an agreement with concerned organization.

b) Appointment of Consultants and Research Fellows:

As per para 5 of the guidelines/instructions for governing the functioning of the Haryana State Farmers' Commission issued vide Memo. No. 2028-Agri.II (1)-2010/10694 dated 5-8-2010, the following provision exists:

“The Commission may appoint Consultants/Research Fellows on contract as per terms of reference of the Commission and shall pay them remuneration as decided by the Commission”.

(i) Consultants:

It is proposed that consultants may be appointed on regular basis for a specific period by a Committee as under, based on specific requirements and availability of suitable experts for the proposed assignment, keeping in view the needs and objectives of the Commission:

1. Chairman
2. Member-Secretary
3. Two Experts to be nominated by the Chairman.

The committee may like to invite the perspective experts for personal discussion, if necessary. The consultants so selected may be paid a consolidated honorarium of Rs. 30,000/- per month.

(ii) Research Fellow:

It is also proposed to appoint Research Fellows as per requirement of the Commission. The Research Fellows shall be appointed on a fixed contract with consolidated emoluments at par with ICAR rates (currently Rs. 18,500 per month for M.Sc and Rs. 20,000 for Ph.D. degree holders). The Research Fellows be appointed through a walk-in-interview to be conducted by the committee mentioned above for the appointment of consultants. The experts called for conducting interview will be paid TA on actual basis and an honorarium of Rs. 1000/- for each sitting.

Note: The quorum of the committee for appointment of Consultants and Research Fellows shall be three. In case the chairman is not available, the senior most expert will chair the meeting.

Further, a contract agreement shall be signed between the Ayog and the appointee on the format being used by the university, incorporating the general terms and conditions of service. The agreement may also be got vetted by a legal counsel before its execution.

Item No. 8 : Recruitment of staff

As per para 14 of the guidelines/instructions for governing the functioning of the Haryana State Farmers' Commission issued vide Memo. No. 2028-Agri.II(1)-2010/10694 dated 5-8-2010 (Copy at Annexure -3), the Commission shall have the following employees on contract/deputation basis :

1.	Administrative Officer	1
2.	P.A.	2
3.	Technical Asstt./A.DO.(Computer literate)	2
4.	Accountant	1
5.	Computer Programmer	2
6.	Assistants	2
7.	Driver	2
8.	Peon	3

The government notification has specified that the staff can be appointed either on contract or on deputation basis. Accordingly, efforts are being made to seek persons on deputation from the state government departments and universities. A circular has been sent to all Heads of Departments in the Government and Registrars of universities in Haryana (Copy at Annexure -4) seeking applications upto 6th September, 2010. In all two applications have been received for the following posts:

One for the post of Administrative Officer	
One for the post of Assistant	(The candidate is not eligible because presently he is working as Clerk)

An effort has also been made to obtain the services of suitable persons on contract basis. A request has been sent to the Regional office of NIC at Chandigarh for providing suitable panel of names for the following positions (copy at Annexure -5):

1.	Personal Assistant	2 (one at Gurgaon)
2.	Accountant	1
3.	Computer programmer	2
4.	Assistant	2

A response is awaited from them. Meanwhile, it is proposed that the following selection committee may examine all proposals received for deputation as well as the response from NIC and decide appointment of suitable staff members:

- I. Chairman
- II. Member-Secretary
- III. Registrar, CCSHAU
- IV. Comptroller, CCSHAU

The selection committee may also consider holding an interview for the purpose, if necessary.

If suitable candidates are not found through above process, an advertisement may be issued in two local newspapers each of Hisar and Gurgaon inviting applications for the vacant positions. Such posts may be filled on contract basis on consolidated fixed emoluments.

Item No. 9 : Financial sanction for incurring expenditure

The commission has been informed that a budgetary provision for a sum of Rupees one crore will soon be made available by the Department of Agriculture, Government of Haryana during the current financial year. Since the office of the commission has to be established, expenditure on renovation of office building and purchase of office furniture has to be made. Further, computers and communication hardware are also to be acquired besides office furniture and equipment. For this purpose, Commission may accord financial sanction for incurring the following expenditure:

1. Renovation of office rooms	10 lakhs
2. Furniture, Office equipment	12 lakhs
3. Air conditioners and Stabilizers	3 lakhs
4. Computers, laptops, printers etc.	10 lakhs
5. Purchase of two vehicles (one Skoda and one Honda City)	20 lakhs
Total	55 lakhs

It is further stated that renovation can be done through HAU Works Department, whereas purchases of equipment, computers, vehicles etc. could be done on the basis of University procedures and rate contracts, whereas furniture could be purchased through a local purchase committee consisting of (i) Member Secretary, (ii) University Comptroller/Accounts Officer and (iii) Senior Architect of HAU.