

## **Proceedings of the meeting with Farmers of Ambala Division with Haryana Kisan Ayog on various issues related to Agriculture**

**Date : Dec. 05, 2010**  
**Venue : R. K. Sadan Auditorium**  
**Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra**

The Haryana Kisan Ayog (HKA) conducted meeting with the officials of the state department of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and CCSHAU, Hisar involving large number of farmers from Ambala division. The meeting was chaired by Dr. R.S. Paroda, Hon'ble Chairman of Haryana Kisan Ayog. Sh. Roshan Lal, IAS, Finance Commissioner and Principal Secretary Agriculture, Govt of Haryana (Member, HKA) and Dr. K.S. Khokhar, Vice Chancellor, CCS HAU, Hisar (Member, HKA), Dr. R.S. Dalal, (Member Secretary, HKA) also shared the dais alongwith Hon'ble Chairman. Dr. Dalal, welcomed different dignitaries and farmers of Ambala division. He also explained the terms of reference and objectives of Haryana Kisan Ayog. Hon'ble Chairman and members of HKA also expressed their views by covering different issues, problems and challenges faced by different sectors of Agriculture within the Haryana state, country and world over. Thereafter, the Member Secretary invited the farmers to express their problems and probable solutions both orally and in writing on the proforma designed and circulated by HKA to every participant attending this meeting. During the meeting several issues were discussed and following points emerged for consideration of Haryana Kisan Ayog and their subsequent follow up action by the Govt. of Haryana and concerned departments and Institutions located within the State.

### **I) ISSUES RELATED TO FIELD CROPS**

#### **1. Little awareness about modern technology to farmers of remote areas**

##### **Suggestions of Farmers**

- Strengthening of extension system of Deptt. of Agriculture and CCS HAU, Hisar.
- Agriculture as compulsory subject should be introduced at High School level.

- Progressive farmers and teachers of Biological sciences should be given short term training of agriculture.
- Services of retired agricultural experts and N.G.O may also be utilized for strengthening extension activities.
- Visits of farmers should be conducted within and outside the country to learn about modern agricultural technology on Govt. expenses.
- Farmers should be trained in small agro-based industries.
- The farmers Committee at Panchayat, Block and District level should be formulated and their monthly meeting/training should be organized by the Deptt. of agriculture and Directorate of Extension Education CCSHAU, Hisar.

**(Action: Department of Agriculture and CCS HAU, Hisar)**

## **2. Supply of inputs**

- Non-availability of quality seeds and others inputs especially fertilizers in time.
- Higher costs of seeds and supply of unwanted packets of sulphur alongwith fertilizer (urea) bags by private dealers to farmers.

### **Suggestions of Farmers**

- The required amount of quality seeds, fertilizers and pesticides should be made available before sowing time of crops to farmers.
- The CCS HAU, Hisar should develop its own hybrids of different crops.
- The University agricultural graduates should be given licenses to ensure the availability of quality seeds, fertilizers and pesticides to the needy farmers.
- Progressive farmers should be given adequate training by the KVK's for the production of hybrid seeds.

**(Action: Department of Agriculture; CCS HAU, Hisar)**

## **3. Issue related to Soil Health**

- There is a problem of soil compaction, resodification and deterioration of soil health and productivity per unit supply of input progressively every year.
- There is no adequate soil testing facility in remotely located villages for both macro and micro-nutrients.

### **Suggestions of Farmers**

- There should be adequate mobile laboratory facilities to cover remote areas for testing fertility status of soils in different parts of Haryana.
- The farmers should be given adequate training and subsidy to prepare composts and vermi-compost and use of bio-fertilizers to improve soil health.
- There should be adequate supply of gypsum at subsidized cost to reclaim sodic soils/sodic waters and control resodification.
- Every farmer should be provided a “Soil Health Passbook” with detailed entry of physical, chemical and biological status of his holding and its recheck at regular interval.

**(Action: Department of Agriculture; CCS HAU, Hisar)**

#### **4. Non-availability of electricity for irrigation**

##### **Suggestions of farmers**

- Majority of farmers desired non-disrupted supply of electricity for 10-12 hours during day time.
- Electricity should be made available on priority basis for pre-sowing irrigation during sowing time.

**(Action: Irrigation and Electricity Departments)**

#### **5. Issues related to sugarcane crops and suggestion of farmers**

- The sugarcane should be lifted from the fields as per pattern of Gujarat with all expenses born for harvesting and transportation of sugarcane by sugarcane Mills.
- Lifting of sugarcane in October of ratoon crops by sugarcane Mills to facilitate timely sowing of *rabi* crops.
- More research and demonstration should be carried at different places to guide the farmers about the suitable intercrops in autumn planting/ratoon crops of sugarcane.

**(Action: Agriculture Department and Mill Owners, CCS HAU, Hisar)**

#### **6. Issues related to direct seeded rice and suggestions of farmers**

- There is about 40% saving of irrigation water in direct seeded rice. However, there is problem of weeds, especially, *Makara* grass in direct seeded rice. This needs urgent attention of research workers.

(Action: CCS HAU, Hisar)

#### **7. Issues related to integrated farming systems**

- Some of the farmers have developed their own integrated farming system models:

##### **For example**

- Sh. Guru Charan Singh, Fatehgarh, Distt. Yamunanagar owns about 25 acres of land and cultivates field crops on 22 acres land alongwith fisheries on 1.5 acres of pond. He also keeps 12 Milch animals on this farm. The farm is self sufficient, remunerative, employment generating. He produces about 90 quintals fish per annum, especially grasscarp, which can be feed by green fodder and leaves of banana and weeds available on farm. He also grows turmeric as intercrop in Poplar plantation alongwith boxes of honey bees for honey production.

##### **Suggestions of farmers**

- There is a need of other farmers to visit integrated farms of such innovative farmers within and outside Haryana State.
- There is need to develop location specific integrated farming system models for other areas of state to help the farmers.

(Action: CCS HAU, Hisar; Department of Agriculture)

#### **8. Issues related to organic farming and suggestions of farmers**

- Some of the farmers are following organic farming for the production of baby corn, mushrooms and other crops. However, there is no simple procedure for certification and proper marketing of such organic produce.
- The farmers should be trained to prepare effective bio-pesticides on their own to follow organic farming.
- There is a subsidy on chemical fertilizers, but there is no subsidy on organic manures, green manures, vermin-compost and bio-fertilizers. There should be adequate subsidy on organic manures and bio-fertilizers to encourage the organic farming and integrated nutrient management.
- Farmers also need training and financial to support to prepare quality organic manure, including alternate source of energy (Gobar Gas, Solar energy) and plantation of multipurpose trees for fodder and fuel wood to save cow-dung.

(Action: Department of Agriculture; CCS HAU, Hisar)

## **II) ISSUES RELATED TO ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND SUGGESTIONS OF FARMERS**

- There is 10-15% success of A.I. in cows and almost total failure in buffaloes.
- There is a need of formation of Animal Rearing Societies in every village and supply pedigree bulls to such constituted societies and /or supply of good quality semen and AI facilities in every village.
- Supply of good quality fodder seeds and adequate training for upkeep of fodder for lean period.
- There is need to provide animal health care facilities in each village.
- There is paucity of high yielding milch animals and adequate No. of Vets availability for proper animal health care particularly in remotely located villages.
- The animals mostly suffer from longer dry period, repeated heating and infertility problems and diseases such as mastitis, FMD and H.S. in several parts of Haryana.
- There is no proper health care and clinical examination of stray bulls and details about their proginee and thus they are great hurdle in providing high milk yielding followers.
- The animal husbandry is becoming a less profitable enterprise due to low price of milk procurement in the villages. There is need to fix remunerative MSP of milk on fat percentage basis.

**(Action: Department of Animal Husbandry and CCS HAU, Hisar)**

## **III) ISSUE RELATED TO VEGETABLE AND HORTICULTURE FARMERS AND SUGGESTIONS OF FARMERS**

- There is a great damage of vegetables and horticulture crops due to non-availability of cold storage and processing facilities.
- There is paucity of good planting material and higher costs of hybrid seeds of vegetable crops by private companies and private dealers.
- There is lack of adequate knowledge about pests and diseases and their proper control measures in vegetable and horticulture crops.
- There is a problem of proper marketing and great difference between prices given to farmers in the mandies and paid by consumers.
- There is inadequate knowledge about the quality standard and packaging and demand of different vegetables abroad.
- There is lack of knowledge about net house/green house technology in the villages.

- There is problem of diseases in mushroom cultivation and inadequate electric power supply to mushroom growers.
- There is lack of pukka farm roads for round the year vegetable supply by farmers to market.
- There is damage of vegetable and horticulture crops by wild animals, cold and other natural calamities.

#### **Suggestions of farmers**

- All major vegetables and horticulture produce should be covered by MSP
- There should be more modern mandies for vegetable and horticulture produce with cold storage and primary processing and packaging facilities in Haryana.
- There should be more research by the University for Quality Hybrid Seed Production of vegetable crops and availability of quality planting material of horticulture crops.
- There is need to strengthen extension facilities to train the farmers in the field of high tech horticulture and better control of pests, diseases and quality seed production of vegetables and planting material of horticulture crops.
- The farm roads should be made pukka with the financial assistances of Government.
- Progressive farmers should also be provided proper exposure to foreign markets and adequate training about quality standards and proper packaging and marketing intelligence for export of horticulture produce outside India.
- The vegetable and horticulture crops should also be under insurance cover in case of damage by wild animals and natural calamities.
- There should be more cold storage facilities and reservation of atleast 50% space for farmers to avoid distress selling of their produce.

**(Action: Department of Agriculture; CCS HAU, Hisar)**

#### **IV) ISSUES RELATED TO AGRICULTURAL FINANCING AND MARKETING AND SUGGESTION OF THE FARMERS**

- There should be more agro-based industries of agricultural produce within the state.
- There should be better availability of small processing units with adequate subsidy to help the small farm holders in the villages.

- There should be more taxation of produce imported from overseas market in India to protect the interest of Indian farmers.
- The farmers should be provided profitable MSP of their all agricultural produce, including the milk.
- Other issues are similar to those reported in the Hisar Division's Meeting.

**(Action: Department of Agriculture; Finance)**

**V) OTHER ISSUES AND SUGGESTIONS OF FARMERS**

- There is shortage of labour during the sowing and harvesting times, and thus MNREGA work should be stopped during Sept.-October and March and April months.
- The dairy farmers should also be provided credit facilities similar to other industries in Haryana.
- There should be mortgage of only that area of land which match the amount of the credit given to the farmers by the banks.
- In case of the damage of crops by natural calamities, some interim financial support should be provided immediately i.e. prior to final assessment of damage by state / central level committees for final financial help given to farmers.
- All farm roads should be made pukka ones with government financial assistance.
- There should be formation of Land Use Board to guide the planners and farmers.
- There should be mission oriented programme to control the population of blue bulls in the state.

**(Action: Department of Agriculture and Finance)**

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks of Hon'ble members and Chairman of HKA and thanks by Member Secretary of HKA to the dignitaries, farmers and other guests present and participated in this meeting.

Member Secretary