

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

**Date : February 28, 2011**

**Venue : Kisan Bhawan, Khandsa Mandi, Gurgaon**

The Haryana Kisan Ayog (HKA) had organized an interface with progressive farmers and the officials of the state departments of Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry of Gurgaon Division and the Senior Scientists and officials of CCSHAU, Hisar. The meeting was chaired by Dr. R.S. Paroda, Chairman, Haryana Kisan Ayog. Sh. Ashok Yadav, IAS, Director General Agriculture, Dr. Satyavir, Director General, Horticulture, Govt of Haryana and Dr. K.S. Khokhar, Vice-Chancellor, CCS HAU, Member of HKA and Dr. R.S. Dalal, Member Secretary also attended this meeting. Dr. Dalal welcomed the dignitaries and farmers of Gurgaon division. He also explained the terms of reference and objectives of Haryana Kisan Ayog to the participants. The Chairman of HKA and Director General of Agriculture and Horticulture, Govt. of Haryana and the Vice Chancellor of CCS HAU, Hisar also expressed their views on different issues, problems and challenges faced by different sectors of Agricultural in the state of Haryana. Thereafter, the farmers were requested to express their problems and probable solutions both orally and in writing on the proforma circulated to all the participants attending the meeting. During the meeting, the following points had emerged needing subsequent follow up action by the Govt. of Haryana and the concerned Departments /Institutions located within the State.

### **I) Issues Related to Field Crops**

1. There is always problem of timely availability good quality inputs (seed, fertilizers, pesticides, etc.) to the farmers.
2. There is a progressive decline in the factor of productivity.
3. Farmers also need proper training and advise to prepare vermi-compost biofertilizers and proper guidelines for organic farming as well as integrated nutrient management.
4. There is acute shortage of water for irrigation in the division and farmers also reported shortage of even for drinking water in Mewat area.
5. There is a problem of prakish water in the area which affects the soil health and crop productivity adversely.

6. The wheat crop is often affected by high temperature stress at grain filling stage in the division.
7. There is a problem of infestation of field crops by various pests and diseases. Farmers demanded development availability of disease and pest resistant varieties and cheaper seed treatment to reduce cost of cultivation.
8. There is a flow of untreated water from industries and sewage water from Delhi which affects the human and animal health and environment very adversely.
9. There is continuous flow of seepage water from the faulty constructed ponds/water bodies on flat lands by erecting 5'-6' high bunds around field boundaries. It has created soil salinity and water logging and damage to the productivity of soil in the large area.
10. There is a heavy infestation of termites in the area, particularly during post rainy season.
11. As reported by the farmers, the whole Aravalli Hill area is infested by aphids, grasshoppers and locusts. Farmers demanded regular monitoring and areal spray of pesticides to control these pests in the Hill areas.
12. There is a problem of damage of crops by the blue bull in the area.

#### **Suggestions of Farmers**

1. Timely availability of various inputs (seeds, fertilizers, pesticides) should be ensured to the farmers.
2. Proper seed rolling plans should be prepared by the CCS HAU and Department of Agriculture for timely supply of good quality seeds to the farmers.
3. Self Help groups should be encouraged for multiplication of foundation/hybrid seeds at farmers fields for easy and timely availability of quality seeds at cheaper rates at doorsteps to the farmers.
4. There is a need to monitor soil health through mobile soil testing labs, and suggest concrete measures to prepare various kinds of organic manures, green manures, biofertilizers to maintain good soil health and high productivity of field crops.
5. Farmers also demanded more research on organic farming and integrated nutrient management on scientific basis as per soil tests for different crops.
6. Farmers need specific advise for reclamation of sodic waters, soil salinity and water-logging conditions to bring back these degraded soils under high productivity.
7. There is a need to conduct research to monitor load of micropes and heavy metals in soil, plant and environment system in the area irrigated by sewage water and industrial effluents.

8. There should be proper treatment of sewage water and industrial effluent before its delivery in the fresh water of canals to maintain good soil, plant, animal and human health and clean environment.
9. Atleast 4-6' deep water storage structure should be constructed as per scientific norms to get rid off extra-seepage and development of soil salinity and water logging conditions in the area.
10. Farmers should be provided adequate training and guidelines for water saving devices such as drip and sprinkler system of irrigation, laser leveling and conservation agriculture.
11. Farmers demanded regular water supply in Palak Minor from Agra Canal and also diversion of excess rain water from Yumana and other rivers to the water deficit areas of division.
12. There is a need to develop pest, disease and temperature tolerance varieties of wheat and other field crops and cheaper seed treatment measures to help the farmers.
13. Farmers need proper monitoring, advise and help from the Govt. to control termites and areal spray of pesticides to control aphids, grass hoppers and locusts infestation in the Aravalli Hills.
14. There is a need to start sterilization programme to control the population of blue bulls/provide adequate subsidy on fencing to control the damage of crops from the blue bulls and other wild animals..

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

## **II) Issues Related to Animal Husbandry and Dairying**

1. Farmers reported paucity of adequate Animal Hospitals and non-availability competent veterinarians for tackling different diseases of animals.
2. There is acute paucity of green fodder and problem of non-palatability of fodder grown with irrigation of sewage water thrown in the fresh canal water from various industries and affluent and sewage water from Delhi.
3. Farmers also demanded the availability of good quality high yielding Murra buffaloes and Deshi cows like Gir, Sahiwal and Tharparkar.
4. Farmers also demanded the facilities of effective A.I. for Murra buffaloes and good pedigree of Deshi cows like Gir, Sahiwal and Tharparkar.
5. Farmers also reported problem of repeated heating mastitis, FMD, stomach worms and other diseases of cattle in the division.
6. There is a paucity of mineral mixture and supply of low cost quality animal feed to the farmers.

7. Farmers also reported the adverse effects of excess pesticides present in the fodder on fertility of milch animals and their health.
8. Farmers also reported the slaughter of large number of high yielding dry Murrah buffaloes and cows and environmental related health problems from the slaughter house of Satak Puri.
9. Farmers also need technical know how and availability of Emu for Emu farming in the Division.
10. Farmers also demanded non-diversion of common Panchayat land for other purposes.

#### **Suggestion of Farmers**

1. There should be more availability of Animal Hospitals and competent veterinarians to help the dairy farmers in tackling different diseases, malnutrition and to provide timely vaccination to the animals on regular basis in each village of the division.
2. There is a need to supply the seeds of good quality fodder crops, training for preparation of cheaper animal feed and mineral mixture to livestock farmers.
3. There should be complete ban on the delivery of untreated sewage and industrial effluent in the fresh canal water to maintain supply of good quality fodder, animal and human health and clean environment.
4. There is need to strengthen the A.I. facilities in buffaloes and cows with pedigree semen, and also ensuring the availability of high yielding Deshi cows like Sahiwal, Tharparkar and Gir to the needy farmers.
5. There is a need to study and monitor the effects of pesticides and heavy metals present in fodders irrigated with sewage water and industrial effluents on animal health.
6. There should be some policy initiatives to control the slaughter of high yielding dry buffaloes and cows in the Satak Puri slaughter house.
7. There is also need to strictly look into the environmental and health problem associated with the presence of slaughter house in the area.
8. There is need of proper technical knowledge, training and supply of Emu to needy farmers for starting Emu farming in the division.

**(Action: LLRU of V&AS, Department of Animal Husbandry)**

### **III) Issue Related to Vegetable and Horticultural Crops**

1. There is a lot of cheating in the supply of quality hybrid seeds and planting material of horticultural crops by the private companies and dealers.
2. There is lack of proper training and r guidelines for protective cultivation of horticulture and floriculture in the division.

3. There is no proper cold storage and processing infra-structure facilities for perishable vegetable and horticulture crops in the area.
4. Farmers reported acute shortage of water for the cultivation of vegetable and horticultural crops, especially in Mahendragarh and Mewat areas.
5. Farmers also demanded quality seeds of spices.
6. Some farmers are cultivating mint, aloe vera and stivina crops but there is non-availability of proper planting material and technology for cultivation, processing and marketing of these crops.
7. There is a great price variation in the sale of flowers, vegetable and horticultural crops in the market between the procedure and consumers.

#### **Suggestions of Farmers**

1. The University and Department of Horticulture need concerted efforts to do more research and provide training for high tech horticulture as well as ensuring the availability of hybrid seeds and good planting materials of horticulture and floriculture to the needy farmers.
2. The farmers interested in the cultivation of mint, aloe vera, spices and stivina need special help for their cultivation processing and marketing.
3. There should be profitable MSP (50% more of MSP) for all major crops including vegetables and Horticultural crops.
4. There is dire need to develop and popularize the processing and value addition units including cold chain facilities and storage units for perishables in rural areas.
5. Farmers demanded special mandies with in Haryana for major vegetable, horticulture and floriculture with primary processing and storage facilities well supported through marketing intelligence.
6. There is need to provide training on water saving devices of drop irrigation alongwith use of plastic to check soil evaporation and protective cultivation of horticulture crops in water deficit areas.

**(Action: Department of Horticulture and CCS HAU)**

#### **IV) Issues Related to Financing and Marketing**

1. There is in adequate subsidy to purchase high yielding buffaloes and cows.
2. Farmers also need subsidy to purchase pesticides and micro-nutrients.
3. Farmers also demanded profitable subsidy on all agriculture, dairy and horticultural produce.
4. The field crops are often damaged by various natural calamities. However, there is no provision to subsidy to the farmers against frost and high intensity wind and cyclones.

5. Farmers demanded adequate subsidy (90%) on water saving devices like drip and sprinkler irrigation sets, laser leveler and water tankers.
6. There exists a disparity between the loans given for agriculture and animal Husbandry to the farmers.
7. There appears to be unethical practices in providing subsidy and credit to the farmers, especially to purchase agricultural machines and implements.
8. The farmers are exploited in the mandies during the sale of vegetables, flowers and fruits by the middle men.
9. There is no MSP for several field, vegetable and horticultural crops.
10. There are higher interest rates on credit given on agricultural implements and dairy units.
11. Farmers also demanded simplified procedures and availability of Kisan credit cards directly through banks.
12. There is a paucity of value addition, processing and storage units, especially for horticulture and vegetable crops.
13. Farmers also demanded 705 credit by mortgaging only proportion of land area as per its value in the division.

#### **Suggestions of Farmers**

1. The loan limit to purchase high yielding milch animals should be increased between 60000-80000 rupees per animal.
2. The demand of farmers to purchase weedicides pesticides and micro-nutrient need attention of Government of Haryana to help the needy farmers.
3. All major agricultural, horticultural and dairy produce should be brought under profitable MSP (150% of cost of cultivation) to help the farmers.
4. The subsidy given to the farmers should go directly to their respective bank accounts, and there should be full freedom to buy the agricultural implements meeting required specification from any dealer in India.
5. The interest rates on credit for agriculture and dairy units should be at par, and not more than 4% with required transparency.
6. There should be simplified procedure for granting credit for agriculture and dairy units to farmers.
7. There is a need to device simplified procedure for the supply of Kisan credit cards through banks as demanded by the farmers.
8. As demanded by the farmers, the mortgage of part of land need special consideration by the banks as per quantum of credit delivery and value of land prevalent in the area.

**(Action: CCS HAU, Hisar, Departments of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Horticulture)**

V) **Other Suggestions**

1. There should proper office of A.D.O.s and their availability on a particular day and place in a week to help in easy assessability to the farmers.
2. As demanded by the farmers, one person of farmers' family should get atleast lowest Government job in Haryana.
3. The insurance scheme should consider the village as unit against safe guard of various natural calamities.
4. There should be proper conservation of rain water by providing adequate support for cleaning of the old water structures and provisions for construction of new ones to facilitate proper recharge of ground water in the area.
5. There should be provision of bigger gohar gas plants with adequate subsidy for generation of electricity of cooking gas in the rural areas.
6. The supply of electricity should be for 8-10 hours preferably during the day time or at fixed time during the night, and the electricity rates should at par for agriculture, horticulture, forestry, dairy units, fishery and other agro-based enterprizes.
7. There should be no diversion of fertile agricultural land for non-agricultural use. If there is any need for land by industries for non-agricultural use, they should negotiate directly with the farmers without any involvement of the Government.
8. There should be good facilities of schooling in rural areas and atleast at par with urban areas.
9. The Kisan Clubs and self-help groups need more support from the Govt. to make them more effective and viable to help the farmers.

**(Action: Department of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and SAU's)**

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks of by the Chairman and thanks by the Member Secretary to the dignitaries, farmers and other guests present.

Member Secretary