

Meeting with Farmers of Hisar Division with Haryana Kisan Ayog on various issues related to Agriculture

Date : **Nov.08, 2010**
Venue : **College of Basic Science,
CCS, HAU, Hisar**

The Haryana Kisan Ayog (HKA) conducted meeting with the officials of state departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and CCSHAU, Hisar by involving large number of farmers from Hisar 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 & Dr. K.S. Khokhar, Vice Chancellor, CCS HAU, Hisar participated in the meeting. Dr. R.S. Dalal, Member Secretary, Haryana Kisan Ayog welcomed different dignitaries and farmers of Hisar division and also explained them the terms of reference and objectives of Haryana Kisan Ayog. Hon'ble Chairman and members of HKA also expressed their views by covering various 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 this interactive meeting several issues related to different sectors of agriculture 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. Non awareness about latest Agriculture Technology by farmers

Suggestions of Farmers

- Strengthening of extension system of Deptt. of Agriculture and CCS HAU, Hisar
- Training of village youth with the designation as **Krishi Sevak**
- Inclusions of Agriculture subject after primary schooling at middle class level
- Strengthening and modernising Agricultural extension mode by connecting Agriculture Institutions, Agriculture Deptt. and farmers in the IT mode. There should be specific space for farmers for informing

their problems and receiving proper solutions from the officers of Agriculture Deptt.

Suggestion of Kisan Ayog:

- A detailed simple software covering different issues related to field crops and medicinal plants using Hindi and English languages and photographs have been developed by some of the SAUS' which can be developed/modified by CCS, HAU, Hisar as per requirement of Haryana State.

(Action: Deptt. of Agriculture; CCS HAU, Hisar)

2. Availability of quality seeds of crops

- Non availability of good quality seed of recommended varieties in time at cheaper rates. The major problem has been reported about the seeds of **Bt Cotton and Hybrids of field crops.**
- There is a mis-match between packages of practices recommended by CCS HAU, Hisar and literature /varieties available in the market with dealers and Govt. Deptts.

Suggestions of Farmers

- The CCS HAU should develop their own Bt varieties/Hybrids of field crops.
- Interested farmers/youth should be trained for developing Bt Cotton and hybrid themselves under the supervision/guidance of the experts from CCS HAU, Hisar.
- The package of practices should be revised in consultation with the different line Deptt. of Agriculture/Horticulture for their distribution to the farmers.

(Action : CCS HAU; Deptt. of Agriculture)

3. Supply of other inputs (fertilizers and pesticides)

- Non-available of good quality inputs in time to the farmers.
- Additions of other material by the dealers not required/demanded by the farmers. For example supply of packets of Sulfur along with DAP by certain companies.
- No subsidy on micro-nutrients to the farmers by the Government of Haryana.

Suggestions of Farmers:

- The licenses should be given for the sale of different inputs to Agriculture graduate.
- The Department of Agriculture should keep a watch on quality and other malpractices prevalent in the market for the sale of different inputs by the private dealers.

- There should be heavy punishment to control various malpractices related to supply of substandard and spurious inputs to the farmers.
- There should be proper display board in the shop of private dealers about the details of chemicals along with telephone numbers of officers of Deptt. of Agriculture.
- The officers of Agriculture Dept. and Scientists should be given power for taking the samples of various agriculture inputs available with dealers for testing their quality.
- All information about the availability of different inputs by the dealers should be available on line for the information of the farmers.

Suggestions of Kisan Ayog

- The Farmers are advised to take proper receipt from the dealers while purchasing the seeds, fertilizers and pesticides from the market, and report promptly to the officers of the Deptt. of Agriculture, for prompt action in case of any complaint in this regard.
- There should be free testing/testing of quality of fertilizers and pesticides by strengthening/developing more quality testing labs at block/District/KVK levels by the department of Agriculture and CCS HAU, Hisar.

(Action: Deptt. of Agriculture; CCS HAU, Hisar)

4. Issues related to Soil Health:

- There is deterioration in the fertility status of soil due to indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and irrigation by brackish waters.
- There is a reduction in the organic matter contents, population of earth worms, friendly insects and microbes in the soils.

Suggestions of Farmers:

- There is a suggestion to start Vedic agriculture by using different methods/organics and create awareness among farmers for organic farming and use of bio-control measures for insect pest control.
- There should be increased use of FYM, organic manure, green manure, non-burning of crop residues and follow up proper crop rotations with the inclusion of legume/green manure in cereal-cereal rotation.

Suggestions of Kisan Ayog:

- There is a need to develop other sources of alternate energy (Biogas, plantation of multipurpose trees for fodder and fuel) to save cowdung for composting/vermin-composting.
- There should be proper simple facilities for certification at Panchayat/Block level and marketing of organic produce for getting remunerative prices of organic products in the market.

(Action: Deptt. of Agriculture, CCS HAU, Hisar)

5. Issues related to Supply and Availability of Irrigation Water

- There is acute shortage of irrigation water in the canals and deterioration of good quality ground waters.
- There is a shortage of electricity (just 4 hours in the villages) and no time schedule for the supply of electricity for the lifting of irrigation water.
- The purpose of watershed in certain rainfall deficit areas/seasons is totally defeated due to partially deterioration of soil health because of levelling and exposing of less fertile sub-soil on the surface due to soil displacement. There is often problem of non-availability of rainfall waters in adequate quantity for conservation, storage and recharging of ground water. Thus, this twin problem has deteriorated the very purpose of watershed despite heavy investment of Govt. funds. These areas are facing the problem of low agriculture production and acute shortage of water due to land leveling or not properly developing the watersheds by following the basic principles.

Suggestions of Farmers :

- There should be timely availability of adequate quantity of good quality canal water on priority basis at the time of sowing and critical stages of growth of crops.
- There should be proper technical know how for proper treatment and conjunctive use of brackish waters.
- The supply of electricity for irrigation should be 8 to 10 hours during day time by following preannounced schedule for the information of farmers.
- There should be shift from flood system of irrigation to sprinkler and drip irrigation or properly designed furrow irrigation in widely spaced crops.
- There should be proper development of watershed in rainfall deficit area on scientific basis to take care of soil water conservation and also the availability of drinking water on priority basis in the villages.
- Some farmers have suggested to divert such water shed development funds for boring of deep tube wells to lift the good quality of water for irrigation and drinking purposes.
- The vegetable growers demanded assured water supply in canal commands with adequate subsidy for the construction of individual water storage tanks.
- They also demanded a dam on Ghaggar river, recharge of ground water and pumping of seepage water around canal banks for augmentations of water supply in water deficit remote areas.
- There should be greater encouragement for laser leveling and adequate subsidy for high tech irrigation for covering more area under irrigation.

(Action: Deptt. of Agriculture; Irrigation Deptt.; CCS HAU, Hisar)

II) ISSUES RELATED ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND ANIMAL HEALTH

- There is paucity of high yielding milch animals and availability of adequate No. of Vets, for proper animals health care, particularly in remotely located villages.
- The animals mostly suffer from longer dry period, repeated heat and infertility problems and diseases such as mastitis, FMD and H.S. in several parts of the Hisar division.
- There is no proper health care and clinical examination of stray bulls and details about their pedigree and thus they are great hurdle in providing high milk yielding followers.
- There is a 10-15% success of A.I. in cows and almost total failure in buffaloes.
- There is no area specific programme for rearing different types of animals following clusters approach i.e. area specific programmes for developing holistic approach for breed improvement of cows, buffaloes, sheep, goats, fisheries, piggeries, and poultry and as well as for their rearing, animal health care and processing of milk and animal products and their proper marketing.
- The animal husbandry is becoming a less profitable enterprise due to low price of milk procurement in the villages.

Suggestions of Farmers:

- There is need to strengthen clinical and hospital facilities with adequate staff of Vets. in the villages.
- Availability of seeds of high yielding fodder varieties of different fodder crops need greater emphasis to help the dairy farmers.
- There is a need to create more awareness of proper treatment for reducing dry period and infertility problem in milch animals.
- Proper health care facilities to control mastitis and timely vaccination (twice vaccination per year) for controlling F.M.D. and H.S.
- Proper checking of stray bulls and castration of undesirable ones.
- Proper training of rural youths for A.I. and availability of quality semen for making A.I. a success in cattle and buffaloes.
- Procurement of milk at fat percent basis in the villages e.g. Milk with 6% fat is sold @ Rs.32/liter and the same milk should be procured at least @ Rs.27 per liter from the milk producers.
- The subsidy provided for purchasing buffaloes should be increased from Rs.30000/- at present to Rs.60000/- to Rs. 80000/- per buffalo by Govt of Haryana.
- There is need to have proper insurance of different animals (buffaloes, cows, goat, sheep, camel, poultry) at cheaper rates in Haryana.

- There is need to develop area specific clusters for different types of animal wealth (ie. Cows, buffaloes, goats, piggeries, poultry, fisheries etc.) with proper awareness and facilities for improvement of breeds, their management, value addition and marketing of different milk and animal products.

(Action: Departments of Animal Husbandry; Fisheries; LLRU of V & AS; ICAR Institutions)

III) ISSUES RELATED TO VEGETABLE AND HORTICULTURE CROPS

- There is paucity of quality planting material, specially for horticulture crops.
- Straw berry farmers which import quality planting material from California through Pune farmers sometimes don't get desired planting material due to difference in the agro-climatic conditions of Pune, Hisar and California.
- The hybrid seeds of vegetable crops are very costly, and farmers are also cheated by the companies/dealers in getting desired quality planting material and agro-chemicals.
- Some farmers reported the damage of their crops by nematodes, mosaic and other pests and diseases.
- There is a problem of damage of crops by the blue bull and other wild animals.
- Almost all growers mentioned substantially low sale price of their produce in mandies, while consumers on the other hand pay 3-4 times more price of vegetable and horticulture produce to retailers and thus the major share of the profit is earned by the middle man on daily basis.
- All farmers reported the problems of damage of their perishable nature of commodities due to the paucity of cold storage and processing units within Haryana.
- There is also paucity of specialized mandies for vegetable and horticulture crops.
- Farmers need adequate financial support and subsidy on water storage tanks and drip system of irrigation for High Tech. Horticulture.

Suggestions of Farmers:

- The SAU and Horticulture Deptts should strengthen their research efforts to provide desired planting material to the growers. They should also be helped in controlling different pest and diseases by developing resistant varieties and cheaper control measures for supply of quality produce at low cost in the market.
- The strawberry farmers which cover over 100 acre area around Hisar demanded that CCS HAU, Hisar should help them in importing and

proper testing of the adaptability and productivity of strawberry material of California under the agro-climate condition of Haryana.

- The development of proper marketing, storage and processing and packaging facilities within Haryana is the need of hour to help the vegetable and horticulture growers.
- There should be adequate subsidy on water storage and fertigation tanks to follow High Tech Horticulture and subsidy for fencing to control the damage of their crops by the blue bull and other wild animals.
- There should be two experts (one for horticulture and another for vegetable) in each district.

(Action: CCS HAU, Hisar; Departments of Agriculture; Horticulture and Irrigation)

IV) ISSUES RELATED TO AGRICULTURE FINANCE AND MARKETING

- There is complicated procedure for making KCC cards. The banks mortgage their whole farm land irrespective of the amount of credit given to the farmers.
- There are commission agents and middle men who cheat the farmers due to complex procedure of credit delivery.
- Most of the nationalized banks do not fulfill the target given by NABARD for credit to farmers.
- The farmers are also not given the full amount of granted loan. It is reported that Rs.1000/- per lac loan are directly deducted by some banks without explaining any reasons for such deductions.
- The farmers don't get the desired price of vegetable and horticulture produce. They are cheated at various points in the absence of MSP for major vegetable and horticulture crops.
- There are also complaints of reducing the price of seed cotton in the Ginning Factory after the finalization of rates of their produce in the Mandies.
- Farmers are also cheated while getting the subsidies announced to them for different purpose by the Govt. specially to purchase the various machines and agricultural implements.
- They are also not happy about the behavior of bankers and other officers related to the delivery of loan and subsidies.
- The interest rates on various loans are reported on higher side than demanded @ 3-4% by the farmers.
- Farmers also have reported about the paucity of cold storage, processing, and packing and proper marketing of different produce, especially the perishable nature of their commodities.

- There is also paucity of specialized mandies for their product, especially for vegetable, horticulture and poultry within Haryana.
- The broiler poultry farmers reported lot of cheating in getting chicks for broiler purpose by private hatcheries in Haryana.
- They also requested to hold state level programme for poultry farmers in Karnal for discussing various issues and problems faced by small broiler poultry farmers in Haryana.

Suggestions of Farmers:

- There should be simplified procedure for granting loans at 3% interest rate with full transparency.
- The different banks should grant loans to needy farmers as per limit fixed by NABARD for various nationalized banks.
- There should be no middle men for facilitating loans and the farmers should get full amount without any deduction by the banks through simplified procedures.
- There should be proper pass books for each farmer and subsidy granted by the Govt. should go directly in their respective accounts.
- There is need to devise simplified procedure for making KCC, and only that proportion of land should be mortgaged which is essential as per amount of loan granted to individual farmers. Some farmers have suggested grant of 70% loan as per cost of their land in the area.
- The farmers demand lot of reforms in mandies to get rid of middle men and commission agents, proper cold storage facilities for their perishables within Haryana.
- They also demanded profitable MSP (50% more of MSP) for major vegetables and horticulture crops.
- Some farmers suggested to develop ITC e-chopal concept for selling their produce in Haryana as substitute for mandies.
- There is a need to develop specialized mandies for vegetable and horticulture produce, poultry products and more cold storage, processing and packaging infrastructure facilities supported by marketing intelligence within Haryana.

(Action: Concerned Govt. Departments involved to deal with the various issues in Haryana)

V) OTHER SUGGESTIONS OF FARMERS:

- Farmers should get profitable MSP (50% more of MSP) for their produce.
- There is need to have complete ban on the use of poeithene, burning of straw after combine harvesting.

- There is a need to strengthen the “Kisan Clubs” with technical and financial support in Haryana.
- There is need to develop proper cowdung based small bio-gas units, composting facilities and alternate source of energy to stop the burning of cowdung.
- There is a need to develop proper schooling facilities in villages at par with urban schools for better education of the children of farmers and other rural communities.
- There is need to re-look on the grant of subsidy on rotavaters as it compacts the soil and demands big tractors; the Turbo/happy seeder is a better substitute of rotavater.
- The farmers suggested to develop small machines and tools for helping small and marginal farmers.
- The MGNREGA programme should be regulated by stopping of its operation during peak sowing (September to November) and harvesting time of field crops (Feb. to April) to ensure the availability of labour for major agriculture operations in the villages.

(Action: Department of Agriculture and other concerned Deptts. of Haryana Govt.)

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