

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

Date : January 22, 2011

Venue : Conference Hall, Institute of Hotel and Tourism Management, MDU Rohtak

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 Rohtak Division and the Senior Scientist of CCSHAU, Hisar. The meeting was chaired by Dr. R.S. Paroda, Chairman, Haryana Kisan Ayog. Sh. Roshan Lal, IAS, Finance Commissioner and Principal Secretary Agriculture, Govt of Haryana and Dr. K.S. Khokhar, Vice-Chancellor, CCS HAU, both Members of HKA and Dr. R.S. Dalal, Member Secretary, also attended. Dr. Dalal, welcomed the dignitaries and farmers of Rohtak division. He also explained the terms of reference and objectives of Haryana Kisan Ayog to the participants. The Chairman and the members of HKA also expressed their views on different issues, problem 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 already 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. The Government of Haryana has banned early transplanting of rice including the Indri Block of Karnal where there is high water table and timely sown crop of paddy is adversely affected by flood water from Yamuna river. The direct seeded rice (DSR) also requires early planting for proper crop establishment before onset of monsoon.
2. There is a considerable decline in soil health and factor of productivity in rice-wheat system. Thus, decrease in unit weight of produce per unit of nutrient application and increase in the cost of cultivation.
3. There are some encouraging results from IPNM and organic farming, but there is paucity of adequate research support and little mention about it in the package of practices of CCS HAU, Hisar.

4. There is paucity of good quality canal water in the Jhajjar district, while ground water is brackish which affects the soil health and crop productivity adversely.
5. There is a problem of high water table and soil salinity in the Rohtak district which affects adversely the productivity of field crops.
6. There is a problem of blast disease of paddy in the Rohtak district.
7. There is always shortage of quality seed, fertilizers, pesticides, gypsum and other inputs and their availability in time to the farmers.
8. The crops are damaged badly by blue bulls and other natural calamities in the whole division.
9. There is a paucity of labour during sowing and harvesting time and non-availability of small machine and implements and subsidy thereon to help the small and marginal farmers.
10. The farmers also demanded the package of practices in IT mode, and also organization of the short courses on repair and maintenances of agricultural implements, mushroom production, vermicompost, medicinal plants and other agro-based enterprises.

Suggestions of Farmers

1. There should not be any ban on early planting of rice in the Indri Block of Karnal. The direct seeded rice also requires early seeding for better establishment of crop before rainy season. Thus, there is a need of some changes in the policy of Govt., keeping in view these problems faced by the farmers in the Indri Block of Karnal and direct seeded rice in other districts of the division.
2. There is a need to monitor the soil health by regular soil testing and to suggest suitable measures for maintaining good soil health (increased use of organic manure, green manure, biofertilizers, incorporation of mungbean crop in the standing crop of wheat, non-burning of straw and its proper incorporation by turbo seeder) and high crop productivity on long-term basis in rice-wheat system.
3. There is a need of more research on IPNM and organic farming, and modification in the package of practices accordingly. It will also require some concrete measures for providing alternate sources of energy (Biogas Units, solar energy, plantation of multipurpose trees, etc.) to save the cowdung for organic manure and composting for encouraging organic farming and IPNM system.
4. Farmers need specific advice for reclamation of problematic soils and waters, as well as conjunctive use of water where good quality of canal water is available, but only after proper soil and water testing of individual farmers.
5. The farmers of high water table areas need also proper advice for drainage/biodrainage along with suitable agro-forestry system supported by concrete research recommendation after field testing.

6. There is a need to provide subsidy for fencing to control the damage of crops by blue bulls and as well as their population by the castration of male blue bulls.
7. There is a need to make all necessary arrangements for the supply of quality inputs (seed, fertilizers, pesticides) to the farmers at cheaper rates before seeding of the crops. The problem of sub-standard material could be checked to some extent if the agricultural graduates are given licences for the sale of inputs. Similarly, proper training to self-help groups in the villages for hybrid seed/quality seed production could help the farmers for cheaper and timely availability of quality seeds at their doorsteps.
8. There is a problem of 'Makara' grass in direct seeded rice and frequent appearance of blast disease in rice in the Rohtak district which need attention of the research workers of CCS HAU, Hisar.
9. The MNREGA should not employ labour when there is the peak demand of labour at sowing and harvesting of important crops.
10. There is an urgent need to prepare package of practices in IT mode and organization of various agro-based courses including repair and maintenance of agricultural machines/implements and availability of such information in IT mode.
11. There is need to develop small machines, tools and implements, especially bullock drawn/or to provide adequate number of Agro-service centres to help the small and marginal farmers for timely operations.

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

II) Issues Related to Animal Husbandry and Dairying

1. There is a paucity of adequate Veterinarians to help the farmers for tackling different diseases (Mastitis, repeated heating, FMD, Theillarasis, Brucellosis etc.) in the villages.
2. There is very poor success of AI and non-availability of quality pedigree semen for breed improvement of buffaloes and cows.
3. The present subsidy is inadequate to purchase high yielding milch animals.
4. There is acute shortage of quality seed of berseem, oats and hybrid fodder maize for green fodder purpose to dairy farmers.
5. Farmers also demanded proper training to prepare silage and availability of silage making machines on custom hire basis in each district.
6. Farmers also demanded quality mineral mixture through K.V.K. and other Govt. agencies.

7. There is a great difference between rates of milk procured from the farmers and sold to consumers. Some farmers demanded profitable rates on fat% and others on total solid percentage and somatic cell counting basis.
8. The various prizes given for pride animals by Govt. of Haryana should be at par with those given by Punjab Govt.

Suggestion of Farmers

1. Farmers demanded regular service of Vets to control different diseases and also proper vaccination to control thelasis, brucellosis and other animal diseases in each village.
2. The A.I. services need further strengthening with availability of quality pedigree semen to help the dairy farmers.
3. Farmers demanded subsidy of Rs.60000/- to Rs.80000/- to purchase Murra buffaloes and high yielding cows.
4. There is need to make self help groups (SHG) to produce quality seeds of different fodder crops, and also their availability through Govt. Departments.
5. Farmers also need proper training and availability of machines on custom hire basis to make silage.
6. There is a need to train the farmers for making cheaper feeds, including the mineral mixture to reduce the cost of milk production, and provide profitable rates for cows and buffalo milk on fat percent or total solid basis.
7. The various prizes given for the pride milch animals (cows and buffaloes) by Govt. of Haryana should be at par with Punjab Govt., i.e. upto Rs.1.00 lac for the best judged animal.

(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 a great price variation in the sale of flowers, vegetable and horticultural crops in the market.
3. Some farmers are engaged in floriculture, but there is a lack of proper training and availability of quality seeds, tubers and other planting materials through Govt. Departments.

Suggestions of Farmers

1. There should be profitable MSP (50% more of MSP) for all major crops including vegetables and Horticultural crops.

2. 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 by CCS HAU, Hisar and State Horticulture Department.
3. 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.
4. Farmers demanded special mandies with in Haryana for major vegetable, horticulture and floriculture with primary processing and storage facilities well supported through marketing intelligence.

IV) Issues Related to Financing and Marketing

1. There exists a disparity between the loans given for agriculture and animal Husbandry to the farmers.
2. There appears to be unethical practices in providing subsidy and credit to the farmers, especially to purchase agricultural machines and implements.
3. The farmers are exploited in the mandies during the sale of vegetables, flowers and fruits by the middle men.
4. There is no MSP for several field, vegetable and horticultural crops.
5. There are higher interest rates on credit given on agricultural implements and dairy units.
6. There is a paucity of value addition, processing and storage units, especially for horticulture and vegetable crops.

Suggestions of Farmers

1. There should be profitable MSP (50% more on actual cost of cultivation) for all major field, vegetable and horticulture crops.
2. There should be specialized mandies for vegetables, flowers and fruits with processing and storage units well supported by marketing intelligence.
3. 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.
4. The interest rates on credit for agriculture and dairy units should be at par, and not more than 4% with required transparency.
5. There should be simplified procedure for granting credit for agriculture and dairy units to farmers.

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

V) **Other Suggestions**

1. 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 be at par for agriculture, horticulture, forestry, dairy units, fishery, mushroom production and other agro-based enterprises.
2. 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.
3. The agriculture subject should be introduced and taught at the middle class or high school level in every village schools.
4. There should be good facilities of schooling in rural areas and at least at par with urban areas.
5. Farmers should be encouraged to use more organic manure and there should be proper training for the preparation of organic manure, bio-fertilizers, bio-pesticides and provision for subsidy on organic manures to promote organic farming.
6. 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