

**Proceedings of the Meeting with Presidents of District Kisan Clubs  
held on 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2012 at Panchkula.**

The following were present:-

1. Dr.R.S.Paroda, Chairman, Haryana Kisan Ayog (In chair)
2. Mr. Roshan Lal, IAS, Principal Secretary to Govt. of Haryana
3. Mr. T. V. S. N. Prasad, Chief Administrator, HSAMB
4. Dr. J. S. Dhankhar, DEE, CCS HAU, Hisar
5. Sh. P.V. Singh , Director Fisheries, Govt of Haryana
6. Dr. R. S. Khokhar, DEE, LLRUVAS, Hisar
7. Dr. B. S. Duggal, Additional Director Agri. Haryana
8. Sh. G. S. Jakhar, Deptt. of Animal Husbandry
9. Dr. B. S. Sehrawat, Deptt. of Horticulture, Haryana
10. Dr. Askok Gupta, Deptt. of Horticulture, Haryana
11. Dr. Jagveer Rawat, LLRUVAS, Hisar
12. Presidents of Districts Kisan Clubs (as per list attached)
13. Dr. R. S. Dalal, Member Secretary, Haryana Kisan Ayog

At the outset, Dr. R. S. Dalal, Member Secretary, Haryana Kisan Ayog welcomed all the senior officers, and the Chairman and representatives of farmers' clubs. Dr. R. S. Paroda, Chairman, Haryana Kisan Ayog initiated the discussion and briefed the House about the purpose of the meeting. He felt that the Kisan Clubs need to be activated and made functional as these clubs could play a very important role in agriculture development and empowerment of farmers.

**Dr. B. S. Duggal**, Additional Director Agriculture, Government of Haryana informed that as per the NSS Report, dissemination of information by formal sources is to the extent of only 40 %. Therefore, informal sources have to be tapped and the Farmers' Clubs can play an effective role in this regard. He also informed that the Kisan Clubs were organized by the Department of Agriculture with following objectives:-

- a) To bridge extension gaps
- b) To provide feedback on problems of farmers

c) To act as change agents

Initially financial provision was also made under a plan scheme and computers etc. were purchased for Kisan Clubs. Due to lack of space with the Kisan Clubs, these computers were passed on to the respective Deputy Directors in the Districts. Since then, the department has been assisting the Kisan Clubs for organizing field visits and training programmes for the farmers.

**Mr. Roshan Lal**, IAS, Principal Secretary to Government of Haryana, Department of Agriculture addressed the meeting and appreciated Haryana Kisan Ayog for taking a lead in activating Kisan Clubs. In his opinion, farmers are the best change agents who can bring in change using the principle of “seeing is believing”. He said that the basic role of the Kisan Clubs is for the dissemination of information. He suggested that the Clubs could avail the services of HSAMB in solving also the market related problems.

**Dr. T. V. S. N. Prasad** thanked the Haryana Kisan Ayog for involving HSAMB to assist Kisan Clubs in the State. He stated that the Board is working for the welfare of farmers and facilitating marketing of agricultural produce. He briefed the Members about the various initiatives launched by HSAMB. He informed that the Board has started vegetable collection Centers and is developing facilities for grading, washing, packaging etc. He suggested that District Kisan Clubs could also take initiative to form Kisan Club-cum- Marketing Society. Such registered societies can be provided facilities by HSAMB such as AC vehicle and outlet in the markets. He announced that the HSAMB will provide space at the Agriculture Business Management Centers in different District Mandis for holding meetings of the Kisan Clubs and also have needed furniture and computer facilities provided. The Kisan Clubs may now contact the respective Secretaries. Necessary instructions to this effect have already been issued by HSAMB. He also announced that the meetings of the Kisan Clubs can in future be held in the Kisan Bhawan free of cost.

**Sh. Man Singh Yadav**, President, Kisan Club, Gurgaon thanked the Haryana Kisan Ayog for its efforts in exemption of stamp duty for availing agriculture loans. He felt that one member of the District Kisan Club should be nominated as a member of the

District Grievances Committee constituted by the State Government. He also felt that the Agricultural Cost and Prices Commission should have representation from Kisan Clubs. He further emphasized the need to revamp the Clubs by involving more progressive farmers and demanded that one technical person could be identified by the Department/HSAMB to assist in official and technical matters of Kisan Clubs on the lines of Panchayat Secretaries. **Sh. G. S. Malik**, President Kisan Club, Kurukshetra also endorsed the view that the Kisan Clubs be provided needed office support and the services of a computer operator. **Sh. Bijender Singh**, President Kisan Club, Palwal highlighted the cases of misuse of funds by the officials. He emphasized the need for effective implementation of schemes having component of subsidies. Misuse of funds has also been reported in implementing front line demonstration scheme. He was of the view that the Kisan Clubs could act as Whistle blowers in checking corruption. **Mr. Kuldeep Singh**, General Secretary, Kisan Club, Jind suggested that the ADOs working in the Department of Agriculture need to be provided mobile phones for effective communication with the Kisan Clubs and general farmers. He also highlighted the good work done by the Kisan Club in Jind. A Kisan Khet Pathshala is being run in village Nidana. He requested the Ayog to visit and see this activity. He also suggested that certification of pesticide free agriculture produce should be made by the Government and more funds be provided for drip irrigation so as to conserve water. **Mr. Kushal Pal Sirohi**, President Kisan Club, Kaithal, emphasized that the impact of policies largely depend on the individual efforts of officers. The Government should have stability and need not change/transfer/officers frequently. He also felt the need of developing coordination of different departments with the Kisan Clubs. **Sh. Harkesh Singh**, President Kisan Club, Ambala said that the Kisan Clubs should take an initiative of building rapport with agriculture and all other related departments. He stated that there is shortage of ADOs in District Ambala. He desired that IT be promoted for dissemination of information. Messages could easily be sent to thousands of farmers through SMS. He desired that extension and subsidy related circulars/publications of all Govt. Departments to be sent to Kisan Clubs and provision be made for study tours of progressive farmers.

Responding to the views of farmers, Dr. B. S. Duggal assured that the department will organize study tours for the interested members of District Kisan Clubs, especially to expose them for a defined activity. He appreciated the work done in village Nidana, Distt. Jind. He also assured that all publications meant for farmers will be sent to the Kisan Clubs. Also the Kisan Clubs in future will be involved in relevant activities of the department. Dr. J. S. Dhankhar, DEE, CCS HAU informed that the package of practices of the University has been up dated and published. He also informed that the University is organizing its Kisan Mela on 12<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2012. He desired to have the contact details of Presidents of District Kisan Clubs from HKA so that they could be contacted regularly in future. Dr. Sehrawat informed that the Deptt. of Horticulture will consider the possibility of providing a computer operator for specified days in a month to the Kisan Clubs. He also suggested that each Kisan club should now have its own e-mail ID. Dr. Jakhar suggested that the calendar of activities of all the departments could in future be circulated to the Kisan Clubs so that Club members could participate in these activities. Dr. R. S. Khokhar, DEE, LLRUVAS highlighted various extension activities of the University. He stated that recently the University has started a toll free number to answer specific queries of the farmers.

**Dr. R. S. Paroda**, in his concluding remarks, thanked Sh. Roshan Lal and other senior officers for their participation in the meeting. Summarizing the major decisions, he wanted Kisan Clubs to play a proactive and lead role in overall agricultural growth of the State. He also desired that the contact details of Kisan Clubs be posted on the website of Haryana Kisan Ayog and also circulated to all the departments. A State level meeting of Kisan Clubs may in future be organized each year by the Haryana Kisan Ayog. He also stated that Haryana Kisan Ayog should prepare the guidelines for proper functioning of the Kisan Clubs in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Horticulture and HSAMB. These could accordingly be adopted for proper implementation.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.