

# Meeting of the Working Group on Haryana State Agriculture Policy with Progressive Farmers

## PROCEEDINGS

**Date :** April. 03, 2011

**Venue:** Committee Room  
Directorate of Human Resource Management  
CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar

The Haryana Kisan Ayog had organized a special meeting with the progressive farmers of the State. The meeting was chaired by Dr. R.S .Paroda Chairman, Haryana Kisan Ayog. Dr. K.S.Khokhar, Member of the Ayog and the Vice Chancellor, CCS Haryana Agriculture University was the guest of honor. Dr. R.S.Dalal, Member Secretary, welcomed the dignitaries and the progressive farmers. Those who attended the meeting were:

### Persons Present

- **Officers of Kisan Ayog**

**Chairman** : Dr. R.S.Paroda  
**Member** : Dr. K.S. Khokhar (V.C)  
CCS HAU, Hisar  
**Member Secretary** : Dr. R.S.Dalal  
**Consultant** : Dr. K.N.Rai  
**Consultant** : Dr. M.P.Yadav

- **Members, Working Group on Draft Agricultural Policy**

**Chairman** : Dr. Mruthyunjaya, Ex-National Director, NAIP  
**Member** : Dr. O.P.Dhandha, Ex-ADG, ICAR

- **About 25 progressive farmers from all over Haryana attended the Meeting.**

The discussion started with a brief presentation by the chairman of the working group Dr. Mruthyunjaya on different aspects of proposed Haryana State Agriculture Policy. After four hours of brain storming session, in which every participant took active part, the following issues had emerged:

1. Establishing State level Agriculture/Farmer Commission and formulating State level agricultural policy is indeed an evolution subsequent to formulation of National Agriculture Policy (2000), constituting the National Commission on Farmers (2004) and

National Policy for Farmers (2006). The State level Commission will serve as a platform for farmers to express their genuine needs and aspirations which will be properly articulated and effectively communicated to the Government and other concerned players for necessary redressal. The State Commission is expected to propose an agricultural policy in the best interest of farmers and farming. It is strongly felt that it may be desirable to frame a Policy for Farmers of Haryana like the one on National Policy for Farmers.

2. Supply of critical inputs in adequate quantity and quality, on time and at reasonable prices at the door steps of farmers be mandated in the Policy. If this is properly done, there is no need to subsidize farm inputs. The unending practice of subsidies has spoiled the habits of farmers to become dependent on Government. However, subsidies for fixed period are necessary particularly for small and marginal farmers for expensive investments like farm machinery, development of special infrastructure etc. Subsidy should be paid direct to the farmers without any intermediary.
3. It may be ensured that electricity becomes available to the farmers for at least 8 hours (it is on an average 4-5 hours but in inconvenient splits) preferably at a stretch during the day time. If made available during the night, the exact time schedule be made known to the farmers in advance. The subsidy on electricity is presently not extended to diesel which is discriminatory. This needs rectification. Suitable replacement to rice in the cropping system is immediately needed to save scarce water resource.
4. APMC Act to be amended to permit Co-operative Societies, Farmers Organizations, SHGs etc to buy and sell agricultural produce, particularly perishables like vegetables and fruits.
5. Tractors be also permitted to transport agricultural inputs and produce. Suitable amendments in the Rule Book (Motor Vehicle Act) are needed. There should be no restriction on the import of farm machinery and proper incentives be given.
6. Flood irrigation be banned by making it mandatory and even punishable. Similarly, make it mandatory to collect and use rain water for all domestic uses. Recharging of aquifer by digging ponds after every two km. and installation of recharge wells after every 10 acres of area. Similarly, water treatment plants be established and treated water be used in drip/sprinkler irrigation. At least one pond in a village be made Pucca and they be protected from pollution/contamination.
7. Strictly enforce the Act relating to indiscriminate use of agricultural chemicals for controlling the pests, diseases and weeds.
8. Do not permit conversion of productive agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses. If to be permitted under exceptional circumstances, ensure that it will be put to required use in the prescribed time limit. Based on analysis of supply and demand for productive agricultural land in future, fix the maximum limit for such conversions. Relaxation of rules for transfer of self acquired land to blood relations requires attention (like exemption of duty on sale deed).

9. If land is acquired for public use, adequately compensate the land owners either with residential plots, share in the industry/enterprise or providing employment to at least one of the family members etc.
10. Cultivable land should not be left fallow at any cost for more than 2 years. If left fallow, penalty be levied, including right of the Government for withdrawal of the land.
11. Attract youth in agriculture, search for their talents and reward them by making agriculture both interesting and rewarding.
12. There appears to be no technology breakthrough in the last few years, particularly so in dryland farming. Hence, Agriculture and /Forestry Departments have to work in partnership with Farmers' organizations.
13. To make agriculture profitable, plan agriculture by zones like rice-wheat belt, cotton belt, sugarcane belt, etc. Develop all facilities needed like processing, transport, market etc. Promote animal husbandry including fishery and forestry in these to promote mixed farming enterprises. The mixed farming ensures engagement of family labour throughout the year.
14. HYV and promising hybrid seeds are to be produced by identified farmers following the Seed Village concept. There is great urgency that hybrid seeds are produced by also by the public sector institutions/ seed corporations.
15. Doubling of oilseed prices will help increase area under oilseeds. Fix MSP to vegetables. The MSP should be 1.5 times the cost of cultivation. Establish farmers markets like Raytu Bazars in AP and Apna Mandies in Punjab. This may require amendment in APMC Act. The procurement arrangements for MSP commodities should be ensured. Wide fluctuations in the prices of commodities during a season need to be brought under control. Mandi charges are very high in Haryana which needs rationalization keeping in view those levied in the neighboring states.
16. Farming is to be treated as any other service since farmers meet the basic need of food for the public. Therefore they also expect similar facilities which are extended to people in the service sector such as pension (at 55 years), health insurance, home loan, quality education to their wards, getting input sales agencies to their children etc. The accident relief being given to the farmers has to be revised upward.
17. Farmers awarded national level recognitions/prizes are to be given due recognition through honor and rewards including inclusion of their name and achievements in books of world records. It will serve as a great encouragement/ incentive.
18. Farmers should also have study visits abroad or within the country for learning new methods/innovations/developments in agriculture. Also the subject of Agriculture be taught as a compulsory subject at the school level. Strengthening agricultural extension and increasing manpower in public extension should be the future priority. Accounting and book keeping to be taught to the farmers by KVKs. Mass awareness campaign on modern agricultural practices to the farmers be also a priority. In future, agriculture

graduates be only given the permission by the Government to sale the inputs like seeds, fertilizers and pesticides.

19. Agriculture and allied sectors (horticulture, dairy, poultry, piggery, and fishery) are important and for all purposes should be treated on par (water rates, tax, power charges etc). The current limit under KCC is very low (Rs.50000), which should be increased substantially. Also there is no justification for imposing the stamp duty for obtaining KCC.
20. Increasing land fragmentation is a major hurdle and innovative ways to overcome it should be thought of. For example, if some members of the household are in salaried jobs, their share of land may be given with all rights to other members of the family engaged in farming in exchange of suitable compensation.
21. The ceiling limit of land to Companies has to be reviewed so that land is not used for speculative earnings. It should be put to approve use only in the prescribed period.
22. The rules of land lease including the period of lease need to be such that the ownership rests with the farmer but it will not affect required investments on the land by the tenant.
23. The sewage water problem around villages nearer to NCR is acute. The policy to manage this problem needs to be spelt out. Similarly, there will always be a rising demand for drinking water and supply of electricity to NCR from Haryana. Haryana has to have a long term policy in the best interest of the State keeping also in view the benefits to Haryana as a result of being nearer to NCR.
24. Give priority to value addition and cold chain development. Lot of scope exists to produce baby corn, sweet corn, mushroom, organic products etc
25. Frost attack and hail storm during flowering/harvesting period are to be considered a natural calamity.
26. Import policy should match with local production so that local production is not discouraged.
27. The Directors of Agriculture, Horticulture, Fishery and Animal Husbandry should all be from technical services only.
28. Farmers should be allowed to establish small scale industries on their own land through provision of change in land use along with no objection certificate.
29. Incentives in the form of award and reward for the use of water saving devices in addition to subsidies be considered.
30. Development of infrastructure for high-tech fish farming, floating feed for fish and provision of high yielding fish seeds be now future priority
31. In case of canal irrigation, water charges be based on actual area irrigated and not on the basis of command area in official records.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the participants.