

Proceedings of the meeting with the Women Farmers with Expert Group on Draft Agriculture Policy

Date : **May 7, 2011**
Venue : **Haryana Kisan Ayog, Hisar**

A meeting of women farmers of Haryana was conducted under the chairmanship of Dr. R. S. Paroda. The chief guest of the meeting was Dr. Mrutyunjaya, Chairman of the working group of Draft Agriculture Policy. The meeting was also attended by Dr. K. S. Khokar, Vice-chancellor, CCS HAU Hisar, Dr. O. P. Dhanda, Dr. V. P. Singh, member of Working group Draft Agriculture Policy. More than 150 women farmers of different districts of Haryana were participated in this meeting. The meeting was also attended by Dean's and Directors of CCS HAU Hisar, Coordinators KVK's, DDA's and personnel's of Haryana Kisan Ayog.

At the outset Dr. R. S. Dalal, Member Secretary, Haryana Kisan Ayog welcomed the Hon'ble Dr. R. S. Paroda, Chairman, Farmer's Commission, Haryana and other dignitaries. The chairman expressed his views on different issues, problems and challenges faced by different sectors of agriculture in the state of Haryana. Thereafter, the women farmers were requested to express their problems and probable solutions both orally and in writing on the performa circulated to all the participants attending the meeting. During the meeting various issues were discussed and following points have been emerged out for consideration by the Commission and Expert Group on Draft Agriculture Policy, Haryana:

- 1) The women farmers have suggested that the Govt. input (seeds, fertilizer, pesticides) distribution counters should be available at block level, and women need to be promoted in this field by issuing the necessary licenses.
- 2) There is lack of knowledge of agriculture technology and service delievery system among the women farmers. The women farmers demanded proper training and need based regular advice to promote agriculture and agro based enterprises. They also suggested that the agriculture magazines and technical bulletins published by the University and Department of Agriculture should be made available to them.

- 3) The women farmers strongly proposed that cooperative dairy should be started in each and every village so that the women farmers may get proper price of milk at their door step.
- 4) The women farmers are involved in all agricultural operations but when it comes the sale of agriculture produce, they are deprived of the opportunity by male members of the family. They demanded agriculture mandies at block level with the provision of sale during the day hour along with Rs 50/quintal as bonus for empowerment of women in the society as per policy of the Govt.
- 5) They proposed that the loan facilities should be strengthened for agriculture produce at lower interest rate with simplified procedure of loan granting through banks. The women farmers should also get priority in the issue of KCC.
- 6) The minimum criteria to grant loan should be decreased from 5 acre to 1-2 acre or less area of land holding so that poor farmers having 1 or 2 acre land or less can start dairy units and other agro-based enterprises of integrated farming to improve their livelihood security, financial status and honor in the society.
- 7) Like male farmers, women farmers have demanded profitable price of agriculture, horticulture, dairy, poultry and other produce.
- 8) Women farmers also requested for more availability of modern tools of farming to reduce their drudgery and better participation in agriculture and other related agro based industries.
- 9) They strongly demanded cooperative collection and sale society or formation of Women SHG to facilitate sale of agriculture produce and input delivery at their door step in a cost effective manner in the village.
- 10) They strongly demanded complete ban on planting of rice before June 10, in Haryana.
- 11) They suggested establishment of Agriculture Women Service Centre like Aanganwadies in each Panchayat with the monthly provision of refresher training by the agriculture experts at their doorstep.
- 12) They demanded the provision of more Godowns at block or Panchayat level to better store and protect their produce.

- 13) They also demanded complete ban of burning of wheat and rice straw after the harvest.
- 14) The women farmers also demanded the purchase of their produce at their door step like ITC e Chopal Concept.
- 15) The women farmers are also engaged in several rural activities like participation in small scale business related to garments and other rural based money earning activities but there is no proper provision of training, collection or sale centre to help them in strengthening their livelihood security.
- 16) The women farmers of Jhajjar region demanded establishment of food processing plant in the already donated house of Sarpanch in Munimpur village. They strongly suggested that it not only would enhance the employment for the villagers but also solve the problem of sale of the ready to serve food items in NCR, due to its location that falls very near to NCR territory.
- 17) The women farmers also raised the question of health care and timely vaccination of their animals to cover different diseases i.e. mastitis, teeth cracking, FMD, brucellosis and repeated heating etc. They also demanded availability of seeds of good fodder varieties, mineral mixtures and proper medication to improve the milk yield of dairy cattle especially in summer season.
- 18) They also suggested that sale purchase license should only be issued to agriculture professional including Women Agriculture Graduates to facilitate availability of good quality seeds and agrochemicals as well as proper training and suggestion for their application.
- 19) They also requested agriculture service delivery through SMS or other IT mode.
- 20) They also drew attention towards milibugs in cotton crop which is causing heavy loss in the yield of seed cotton.
- 21) Farmers also reported the problem of flower drop and infestation of diseases in horticulture crops and poor yield or crop failure of vegetable irrigated with brackish water.

The other suggestions were similar to those reported in several interactional meetings of large number of farmers of different divisions with Haryana Kisan Ayog.

After the detailed discussion and suggestions on different issues, concluding remarks were offered by the Chairman Dr. R. S. Paroda, Vice Chancellor Dr. K. S. Khokar, Chairman Working group [Dr. Mrutyunjaya](#), Member HKA Dr. V. P. Singh, Dr. O. P. Dhanda and Dr. K. N. Rai. The vote of thanks was offered by Dr. (Ms) Anupama Deora Research Fellow, HKA.