Minutes of the meeting held under the Chairmanship of Secretary (A & C) with State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Puducherry, on 22nd June, 2015 to review the progress under MIDH and OFWM.

A meeting was held on 22nd June, 2015 under the Chairmanship of Secretary(A & C) to review the status of implementation of MIDH and OFWM, including strategies for strengthening the horticulture sector in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Puducherry.

The meeting also deliberated on issues related to development of alternate crops for tobacco, with a view to providing them livelihoods and sources of income comparable to tobacco. Representatives of States also highlighted key initiatives being undertaken to promote horticulture in urban and peri-urban areas, with focus on roof top gardening/kitchen gardens and assistance being provided to households therein.

List of participants is attached at Annexure I.

The salient points arising out of the discussions and presentations made by the States are summarised briefly as under:

1. Horticulture Area Production Information System (HAPIS)

Advisor Horticulture informed that HAPIS has been launched for facilitating the states to upload information on area and production of horticulture crops at the district level. The data can be uploaded from State HQ also, if facility is not available at the districts. She added that Kerala and Telanganna are yet to upload the data while Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry have uploaded data for all the districts, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have uploaded data for 6 districts and 9 districts respectively. It was impressed upon the States to upload the data regularly. Season wise data on coverage of area under onion and potato also need to be given.
On a query from Secretary Horticulture, Tamil Nadu about standard methodology for crop assessment, Advisor Horticulture clarified that methodology has been standardized by Indian Agricultural Statistical Research Institute (IASRI). Coordinated Horticulture Assessment and Management using geo-information (CHAMAN) project has been launched in 2014-15 to strengthen the methodology by use of Remote sensing technology.

JS (MIDH) highlighted that there was need for improving the existing methodology for reporting horticulture data, which was mainly through the publication of National Horticulture Board (NHB). In order to have international acceptance of country specific data, duly validated by the Department, proposal to involve Oxford University Press is envisaged. Hence, States need to pay close attention for reporting horticultural statistics. He also suggested the need for nominating a nodal Officer from each State on HAPIS.

APC, Govt. of Karnataka mentioned that, based on sample survey done in Gulbarga district, it was observed that actual production figures were about 82% higher than what was being reported under the normal system. They have taken up such survey in 9 districts. Horticulture crops do not figure in land records of the State revenue Department. Hence, there is a need to standardize the reporting system for horticulture crops.

On a query by Secretary (A & C) about the methodology being followed for coconut, Chairman, CDB mentioned that they were facing problems till 2012-13. However, subsequently a detailed methodology of concurrent estimation of production and productivity of Coconut, based on coconut flowering has been developed, which is working satisfactorily.

Based on the deliberations, it was decided that Horticulture Advisor would circulate a brief note on CHAMAN project to all concerned states.
2. CDB interventions

Chairman, CDB, in his presentation, highlighted the progress under CDB schemes. During the discussion it emerged that there was shortage of quality planting material for hybrid coconut. There was also a need to popularize the coconut insurance scheme. He emphasized the scope for strengthening value addition and income generation related to coconut products. It was informed that Kerala and Tamil Nadu have exempt Neera from excise duty and Secretary (A & C) pointed out the need for other Coconut producing States to be encouraged to take similar steps to promote the same. A letter in this regard needs to be issued to all coconut producing states.

Secretary (A&C) suggested the need to have separate discussions with Chairman, CDB about CDB programmes, particularly Coconut Insurance Scheme. He also suggested the need to partner with CPCRI with regard to development of protocols for tissue culture in coconut.

3. NHB schemes

MD, NHB mentioned that they have approved large number of projects on commercial horticulture and cold storage, with credit linked back ended subsidy.

Secretary Horticulture, Govt. of Tamil Nadu suggested that the State Government should also be involved in respect of projects sanctioned by NHB.

Chairman enquired whether all projects being approved by NHB are available on the public domain. On this MD, NHB confirmed that these are uploaded on NHB’s website. Secretary (A & C) has directed that state wise data on projects approved are made available in the NHB website (with proper display).

4. Centres of Excellence (CoE)

JS (MIDH) explained that CoEs were being promoted with collaboration with countries including Israel and Netherlands for introducing latest technologies in horticulture sector. Total investment for setting up a CoE was to the tune of Rs. 10.00 crore for which 100% assistance is provided for infrastructure development under MIDH.
On a query by the Chairman as to whether cost of international consultants are born under the project, JS (MIDH) clarified that only local costs are borne under the project. A large number of middle level field functionaries have been trained in Israel on global best practices. At present a total of 8 Centers for Excellence are functioning well, while 24 are at various stages of completion. Centers at Sirsa, Karnal, Dapoli, Nagpur, Aurangabad, Sabarkantha, Kartarpur, Hoshiyarpur are functioning well.

4. Peri Urban Horticulture

JS (MIDH) mentioned that the scheme on Vegetable Initiative for Urban Clusters (VIUC), which was launched in 2011-12 has been discontinued as a separate sub scheme under RKVY. However, states have the option to include the activity either under MIDH or under RKVY, within the allocated budget to the states. He sought the suggestions of the participating states in promoting peri urban horticulture.

MD, SHM, Kerala mentioned that under VIUC they promoted terrace cultivation of vegetables on roof top in grow bags in Trivandrum city. Sand and organic manure was used in the grow bags, costing Rs. 2000/- each. Each beneficiary was given 25 grow bags @ Rs. 500/- each (25% subsidy) along with vegetable seeds. The programme has been well received and extended to cover Kochi and Kozhicode Cities. Horticorp was involved in aggregating and marketing of the produce by using vans. VIUC programme has been well received in Jails also. The state is also promoting Vertical Farming System developed by KVK, Kannoor.

Secretary Horticulture, Govt. of Tamil Nadu mentioned that they have also adopted the Kerala Model in Chennai city. Instead of sand, they were using Coco peat in grow bags and the cost worked out to Rs. 3400/- per grow bag. Each beneficiary was given 20 grow bags @ Rs. 1700 per bag (50% subsidy).
Chairman directed that a write up about rooftop cultivation of vegetables in Kerala and Tamil Nadu may be circulated to all the states. Write up about cultivation of vegetables in Jails may be circulated to Secretary Jails in all states.

5. Alternative Crops to Tobacco

JS (MIDH) mentioned that Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been pressing hard for promoting alternative crops to tobacco. He urged the participating states to work in synergy with State Department of Health, for a holistic approach in this regard.

Commissioner Horticulture, Andhra Pradesh mentioned that price of tobacco has fallen this year. Hence farmers are trying to switch over to horticulture crops.

APC, Karnataka mentioned that tomato is emerging as an alternative crop for tobacco.

6. On Farm Water Management (OFWM)

The Chairman informed that OFWM assumed importance and it will now be promoted under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY). Additional funds are being sought for.

Secretary Agriculture, Govt. of Tamil Nadu mentioned that 100% subsidy was being provided in the states to small and marginal farmers. He suggested the need for giving subsidy assistance to the farmers instead of system manufactures. He also suggested the need to enhance outlay for Tamil Nadu, keeping in mind outlays for other States, JS (MIDH) clarified that, as per guidelines, subsidy is to be given to the supplier through the farmers. State Government may amend the procedure, as per their requirements.

APC, Karnataka suggested the need for having an electronic system on the model of Gujarat Green Revolution Company (GGRC) for promoting OFWM. Under this system, farmer applied to GGRC and contributes their share to GGRC
along with name of system manufacture. Therefore, the farmer does not have any
direct dealing with the manufactures.

JS (MIDH) suggested that Secretary Horticulture Tamil Nadu, and APC
Karnataka may have meeting with GGRC to develop suitable MIS for OFWM. One
state from each zone may also be included for discussions with GGRC. He added
that GGRC has the backing of three Fertilizer Companies which may not be
available in other states. Therefore, each state will have to develop or modify the
GGRC system, as per their requirement. With regard to outlay for OFWM, he
classified that it is decided on the basis of expenditure during the previous year
and furnishing of utilization Certificate.

Chairman observed that a system needs to be evolved for deciding the
allocation under OFWM based on pre determined criteria such as water stressed
area, rainfall pattern, area under horticulture, Drought prone area, etc.

7. Summary of decisions taken during the meeting is as follows:

1. A brief note on CHAMAN project will be circulated to all states.
   (Action: Advisor Hort)

2. All the states may ensure timely entry of correct data in HAPIS portal. It may be
   reviewed by Director of Horticulture of each state.
   (Action: Advisor Hort)

3. All coconut producing States need to be encouraged to promote Neera by
   exempting it from excise duty, as done by Government of Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
   A letter in this regards need to be issued to all coconut producing states.
   (Action:JS (MIDH))

4. A training schedule will be prepared for training farmers in Andhra Pradesh on
   Neera extraction.
   (Action: Chairman, CDB)
5. Separate discussions will be held with Chairman, CDB about CDB programmes, particularly Coconut Insurance Scheme.

   (Action: Chairman, CDB/JS (MIDH))

6. Matter need to taken up with CPCRI about development of protocols for tissue culture in coconut.

   (Action: HC)

7. All projects sanctioned by NHB should be uploaded in NHB web site.

   (Action: MD, NHB)

8. A write up about roof top cultivation of vegetables in Kerala and Tamil Nadu may be circulated to all the states. Write up about cultivation of vegetables in Jails may be circulated to Secretary, Jails in all states.

   (Action: JS (MIDH))

9. Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka will provide concept paper on alternative crops to tobacco.

   (Action: MD, SHM, AP, Karnataka)

10. A system will be evolved for deciding the allocation under OFWM based on predetermined criteria such as water stressed area, rainfall pattern, area under horticulture, Drought prone area, etc.

    (Action: JS (MIDH))

    The meeting ended with thanks to the Chair.
Annexure-I

List of Participants for the meeting chaired by Secretary (A&C) on 22.06.2015 with Southern States:

1. Ms V.Usha Rani, Horticulture Commissioner, Andhra Pradesh
2. Ms Uma Devi, Assistant Director, D/o Horticulture, Telangana
3. Ms P.V.Bhagyalakshmi, OSD (MI), Telangana
4. Dr. Prathapan, Director, NHM & RKVY, Kerala
5. Dr.A.Ramamourti, Mission Director, Puduchery
6. Shri Rajeev Chawla, Pr. Secy. (Horti), Karnataka
7. Shri Prakash, Addl. Director, Karnataka
8. Shri K.B.Dundi, Addl. Director, Karnataka
9. Shri L.Sitharesenan, Mission Director, Tamilnadu

From the Department:

1. Shri Siraj Hussain, Secretary (A&C)
2. Shri Raghvendra Singh, Additional Secretary
3. Shri Sanjeev Chopra, Joint Secretary (MIDH)
4. Dr. S.K.Malhotra, Horticulture Commissioner
5. Shri Atul Patne, Director (Hort.)
6. Shri T.K Jose, Chairman, CDB
7. Dr. A.K.Singh, Managing Director, NHB
8. Shri Om Prakash, Addl.Comm (MIDH)
10. Dr. Sanjay Kumar, DDG (NBM)
11. Ms Mamta Saxena, Horticulture Advisor
12. Ms. Swapna Bhattacharjee, Director (Hort. Statistics)
13. Shri Rakesh Vardhan, Technical Director (NIC)
14. Ms Jyoti Singhal, US
15. Shri N.Sanatomba Singh, US
16. Shri S.N.Jasra, US
17. Shri M.L.Meena, US
18. Shri Pawanexh Kohli, CEO, NCCD
19. Dr. Jose, Chief Consultant
20. Shri Om Prakash, Chief Consultant
21. Shri S.K.Kaul, Assistant Director (MIDH)
22. Shri Swarnendu Singha, Section Officer (MIDH)