

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 23.03.2017 TO PREPARE ROAD MAP FOR REDUCING IMPORTS OF FRUITS

A meeting was convened on 23.03.2017 under the Chairmanship of Agriculture & Horticulture Commissioner, Dr. S.K. Malhotra, to discuss the strategy for reducing import of fruit crops from other countries. Following members attended the meeting:-

1. Dr. P. Shakeel Ahammed, JS (Hort.)
2. Dr. N.K. Patle, Deputy Commissioner (Hort.)
3. Sh. R.R. Sharma, Assistant Commissioner (Hort.)
4. Dr. R.C. Upadhyay, Chief Consultant (Hort.)

At the outset, Chairman welcomed all the members and appraised that apple, kiwi, citrus fruits and many other fresh fruits are imported in India. Despite of our strength on production of large quantity is imported, further he emphasized the necessity for reducing import of fruit crops mainly Apple, Kiwi and Citrus. He also mentioned that in one of the meetings, Secretary (DAC&FW) suggested for development of roadmap for augmenting production in India, based on information on preference of varieties of fruit crops being imported from countries like, Fizi, Iran, Newzealand, Thailand, etc. After thorough discussion following suggestions were given by Chairman and JS (MIDH):-

- I. Based on the background paper on import of horticulture produce prepared in the division, Chairman suggested to develop the roadmap for reducing the import (crop-variety wise & state wise) of fruit crops. **(Action, Dr. R.C. Upadhyay)**
- II. It was suggested to identify the best locations in the country to grow the specific varieties of fruit crops and also need to map those areas suitable for productions.

- III. The technology for promotion of such imported varieties should be developed for increasing the production of such varieties. ICAR may be consulted to recommend technologies which may boost up the production. **(Action: ICAR)**
- IV. Chairman also highlighted for selection of varieties of fruit crops which are preferred in urban areas specifically Apple, Kiwi, Citrus and Sweet Orange.
- V. JS (MIDH) suggested to invite importers/association dealing with import of fruit crops to discuss the quality parameters which are preferred in Urban areas. **(Action: Dr. N.K. Patle)**
- VI. He has also suggested to focus on a roadmap for production of planting material for preferred fruit varieties with the help of ICAR. **(Action: ICAR and MIDH)**
- VII. Chairman asked for development of package of practices including GAP by ICAR to improve the quality parameters in the fruit crops. **(Action: ICAR)**
- VIII. Chairman suggested for increasing production of Apple, Kiwi and Sweet Orange in the States like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh by undertaking these activities in area expansion program and suitably include in Action Plan of those States. **(Action: MIDH)**
- IX. It was also suggested that expert from ICAR (NRC), Director (Hort.) from Himachal Pradesh, ~~Arunachal~~Pradesh and Uttarakhand may be called to suggest the roadmap for production of such varieties in their States. **(Action: MIDH)**

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to & from the chair.
