



HARYANA KISAN AYOOG

Newsletter



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From the Chairman's Desk

The National Food Security Act 2013, passed recently by the Parliament, provides Right to Food as a legal entitlement to about 80 crore people. It has provision for providing subsidised food grains to about 67% of the population covering approximately 75% rural population and 50% urban population in BPL and APL categories. This indeed is an ambitious and bold Government initiative aiming to achieve both physical and economic access to food and thereby achieving nutrition security. Obviously, Food Security Act places an extra responsibility on our farmers to produce yet more food grains and other products like fruits, milk, meat, eggs, fish etc, at internationally competitive cost. The requirement of food grains for the scheme would necessitate around 65 million tonnes of buffer stock annually comprising wheat, rice and coarse grains. Moreover, our requirement will increase further by 70 per cent by 2030. Hence, for successful implementation of this Act, we shall have to accelerate the pace of domestic food grains production, since it may not be possible to import large quantity of food grains. On the other hand, India will be the most populous nation surpassing China by 2050.

Also it is evident that future Food Security can only be possible by taking our farmers on board, which would require enabling environment through pro-farmer policies and much needed incentives to improve farm productivity. We shall have to make our agriculture more efficient and resilient while addressing second generation problems of Green Revolution, beside emerging concern of climate change. We also realize that neither the Government can roll

back from its guarantee on food, nor we can afford to import food in large quantity. Hence, we need to think about the long term implications and ensure our continued efforts to produce that much extra food. Obviously, this would necessitate implementation of pricing policy as recommended by Farmers' Commission headed by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan and also by Haryana Kisan Ayog.



Since Haryana, Punjab, and Western U.P are the main contributors to the national food basket, and since Haryana Government is first to implement the scheme, the onus obviously lies on the farmers of Haryana to produce more food grains. I am sure; the farmers of Haryana will rise to the occasion and contribute significantly towards this ambitious social goal. We also see considerable scope for further enhancing productivity of food grains like wheat, rice, maize and pulses, besides that of fruits, vegetables, milk, eggs and fish in the State. Obviously to achieve this, farmers will have to adopt new innovations, best practices and diversification of agriculture, including secondary agriculture, for both enhanced production and profitability. No doubt, it is a tall order but not insurmountable provided an all out effort is made in a “Mission Mode” approach by all stakeholders. However, all will depend on how secured is our farmer while implementing the Food Security Act.

Dr. R. S. Paroda

National Workshop on “Out-scaling Farm Innovations”

The farmers have been silently contributing towards overall agricultural development. They have evolved innovative ways to adopt and mitigate farm related problems. Farm innovations are, in fact, a way of life for the farmers to fight and adjust against natural resource degradation, declining factor productivity, increase in cost of inputs and emerging climate change which all take heavy toll. Despite this, their contribution in the development of farm sector has not properly been recognized for verification, refinement and large scale adoption. On the contrary, it is always argued that farmers' innovations are inexpensive, easily accessible, and locally appropriate for faster adoption under real farm situations. Therefore, it is time now to recognize farm led innovations and ensure greater participation of farmers for making farming more remunerative and diversified. To ensure this, a platform has to be provided to the farm innovators to interact with the scientists and planners for better understanding and appreciate their efforts.

Dr. R. S. Paroda, Chairman Trust for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences (TAAS), realizing the importance of farmer led innovations, decided to bring farmers, scientists and field functionaries on a common platform by organizing a number of workshops in 2005 (New Delhi), 2007 (BAU, Ranchi), 2011 (CCSHAU, Hisar) and 2012 (NDRI, Karnal). All these workshops generated considerable interest and realization among scientists and planners that farmer-led innovations with proven success are to be out scaled faster for inclusive growth and increased income of farmers.



Dignitaries on the dais

Encouraged by these initiatives, a national level workshop on “Out-scaling Farm Innovations” was organized jointly by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and TASS on September 3-5, 2013 at NASC complex, New Delhi. The other co-sponsors were Haryana Kisan Ayog, National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA), Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR), Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Authority (PPV &

FRA) and Bharat Krishak Samaj (BKS). It was attended by around 300 delegates, consisting mainly of farmers from different parts of the country. The workshop was also attended by some prominent scientists and leaders from different ICAR institutions and State Agricultural Universities.

Shri Ashish Bahuguna, Secretary Agriculture, Government of India, while inaugurating the workshop, opined that farmers are capable of bringing country out of present economic crisis. Therefore, small farm holders need to be equipped with appropriate technologies that are efficient and cost effective. He said that our policy must be farmer centric, whereas present policies are invariably consumer oriented. Moreover, enhancing food grains production has become a necessity in the present context of implementing our “Food Security Bill”. This is a new challenge for the farmers, planners and the scientists, which we shall have to face successfully. He also desired print and electronic media to highlight properly the farmers' problems and to promote farmer led innovations.

Dr. R. S. Paroda, Chairman, Haryana Kisan Ayog and Chairman, TAAS mentioned that there is an increasing trend at the global level to associate farmers in both research and development pursuits, especially to take advantage of farm-led innovations. We must reorient our strategies to involve farmers in research and development stream. In fact, there is need to adopt “Farmer First” approach which will require both institutional and policy reforms. He emphasized the need for promoting farm innovations, including secondary agriculture. He emphasized that eco-regional innovations must be out-scaled for greater benefits to our farming community. He also opined for greater empowerment of women and youth as they have potential to make significant contributions in agriculture sector. He argued for “Farmers' Security” through appropriate policy interventions.

Dr. S. Ayyappan, Secretary DARE and Director General, ICAR in his Chairman's address assured to organize such workshops in different regions so as to bring about greater awareness among farmers. Dr Ayyappan said that tribal women in different States have developed innovative modules of resource management and income generation, that can be studied, refined and promoted for larger benefit to our society. He promised that ICAR would prepare an inventory of innovative farmers and ensure better utilization of their knowledge. He advocated promotion of “Specialty Agriculture” and agreed to create an “Agri - innovation Fund”, and initiate a “Farm Professorship Scheme”.

Shri Ajay Vir Jakhar, Chairman, Bharat Krishak Samaj emphasized that farmers need empowerment. According to him, the farmers are unable to put their views effectively and, therefore, their problems invariably remain unheard. He desired that the media, NGOs, market forces and policy makers must bridge this gap in the interest of

agriculture. He also argued for greater participation of farmers in priority setting and decision making process.

Dr. R. R. Hanchinal, Chairman, PPV & FRA, Dr. H.S. Gupta, Director, IARI, Dr. K. D. Kokate, DDG, Extn., ICAR and Dr. P. L. Gautam, Vice Chancellor, CPU also expressed their views in the inaugural session.

In all, ten technical sessions were organized, each one on a core issue. As many as 36 farmers from Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Kerala, North- Eastern States, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu spoke and shared their experiences on various farm innovations.



Dr. Paroda visited exhibition

The following major recommendations emerged in the Plenary Session which was Co-chaired by Dr. Paroda and Dr. Ayyappan:

- Paradigm shift in AR4D to address specifically the small holder farmers and renewed emphasis on “Farmer First” through participatory approach, better knowledge sharing and enabling policy environment would ensure food security in future as well.
- Out scaling of innovations, based on their techno-economic feasibility, relevance and utility would be the key for inclusive growth of small holder farmers. Hence, identification of such innovations like Happy Seeder, laser leveler, zero till drill, paddy transplanter, conservation agriculture, protected agriculture, new varieties/hybrids etc. and their faster adoption/use will benefit considerably the small holder farmers.
- Mission mode programmes on small farm mechanization, protected cultivation, low cost rural based agro-processing for value addition, livestock development, promotion of hybrid technology, micro-irrigation etc. would go a long way in increasing both productivity and income of farmers. Hence, greater policy support for promotion of these innovations will be needed.
- Farmer led innovations relating to new crop, new area, new on-farm / off - farm based secondary agriculture etc. must

be identified, tested, refined and advocated for large scale adoption for greater benefit to our farming community. Some examples are: rabi maize in eastern India, spring maize in northern region, summer moong in rice – wheat cropping system, boro rice in West Bengal, direct seeded basmati rice, vegetable production in plastic tunnels, polyhouses, micro-irrigation, fertigation, organic farming etc.

- Market reforms be given high priority for promoting farmer led innovations. Revision of APMC Act especially to delink horticulture produce (vegetables and fruits), provision of Kisan Bazars/Huts, cool chain and credit linked trade/marketing options, and linking farmers to markets would be required to benefit both farmers and consumers.
- For open access knowledge sharing, we would need more ICT, smart phones, radio and television (dedicated channel exclusively on agriculture). Creation of a cadre of young technology agents for custom hire services in specialized areas would help in reducing dissemination losses while out-scaling farm led innovation.
- Incentives and rewards to innovative farmers would be needed to promote useful technologies on farmers' fields. For this, central and state governments must create “Farm Innovation Fund” so as to ensure their sustained interest in creating and promoting new initiatives for enhanced productivity and income.
- It was realized that there is an urgent need to have institutional reforms especially for better co-ordination, convergence and efficiency. Linkage between KVK and ATMA, linking schemes under MANREGA, KVK, RKVY etc. with out-scaling of useful farm innovations, each KVK to act as an ATIC, promotion of self help groups (SHGs), establishing co-operatives and farmers' company etc. would help in having greater impact of new innovations. Also successful public-private-partnership models will have to be replicated by creating enabling policy environment.
- Innovative farmers so identified must be rewarded and given incentives as well as recognition as “Farm Professors” so as to share their knowledge and experience while imparting training to others for much needed capacity development. Farmer to farmer training will have much greater acceptability and generate confidence for out-scaling new innovations.
- Availability of credit at low interest rates and provision of insurance schemes for promotion of activities by SHG, co-operatives, farmers companies especially for processing, grading, storage and primary value addition would encourage small holder farmers in out-scaling their innovations since such provisions will reduce risk factor and build much needed self confidence to promote farm innovations.

Participation of HKA in National Workshop on “Out-scaling Farm Innovation”

Haryana Kisan Ayog (HKA) was one of the co-organizers of National Workshop on “Out-scaling Farm Innovation” held on 3– 5 September, 2013 at NASC complex, New Delhi. At this occasion HKA also participated in the exhibition. In this workshop HKA exhibited all its publications and made available to farmers, scientists and planners. The publications were appreciated by participants and there was a great demand for the documents.



HKA stall in the exhibition

Seminar on Bee Keeping

State level seminar on bee keeping was organized by the Department of Horticulture in collaboration with Haryana Kisan Ayog at Horticulture Training Institute (HTI), Uchani, Karnal. Padama Bhusan Dr. R. S. Paroda, Chairman, Haryana Kisan Ayog was the Chief Guest. The other dignitaries present in the seminar were; Dr. R. S. Dalal, Member Secretary, HKA, Dr. A. S. Saini, Additional Director, Department of Horticulture, Dr. B. S. Sehrawat, Joint Director, Department of Horticulture & Principal, HTI. More than 100 farmers from different districts of the State participated in the seminar. Seminar was divided in two sessions; technical session and session on interface with farmers.

In technical session six presentations were made dealing with Honey bee breeding, production, quality control, management of production and post production practices, managing honey bees colonies, processing and marketing, present status and incentives to bee keepers in Haryana. The presentations made were highly practicable and beneficial to the farmers in managing their honey production activities. Participant farmers took active interest in deliberations and raised valuable questions.

During interface session, farmers took active part. All the bee keepers were full of enthusiasm and most of them were young. They raised valuable questions and problems being faced by them in pursuing their bee keeping profession. The problems raised by them were reduction in

present year's budget for bee keeping, demand for foreign exposure to Bee keepers, increase in subsidy, non availability of nectar to bees on account of decrease in sunflower acreage in the State. To update the farmers, Dr. A. S. Saini, Additional Director, Department of Horticulture explained listing different steps being taken by the department for the benefit of honey bee farmers in particular and development of honey bee enterprise in general in the State.

Delivering his Chairman's speech, Hon'ble Dr. R. S. Paroda expressed his happiness seeing overwhelming participation particularly of young bee keepers. He said that Ayog has submitted Agriculture Policy which is likely to be approved by the government soon. In the policy, maximum emphasis has been placed on diversification of agriculture and secondary agriculture. He exhorted bee keepers that our maximum emphasis should be on modern technology to compete in the present day globalized scenario. Use of modern technology, capacity building and production of quality product will help to get better prices for your product. You must feel free to express your problems before the officers of the department for action to be taken. He observed that we started from scratch and now we are at comfortable level and will improve in future. He also informed the bee keepers that Ayog will form a working group for the in-depth study of the honey bee farmers' problems and suggest suitable measures to overcome. He expressed the need for carving out parks / places at government facilities for bee keepers to put their boxes. He pointed out that it is right time to search out the reasons for decrease in production of honey per unit. He suggested for increase in



A progressive farmer sharing his views

budget for bee keeping, minimum fifty boxes to bee keepers, incentive to progressive bee keepers, loan at 4 percent interest, and calamities insurance. He asked bee keepers to form their own organizations, create awareness among masses about advantages of having bee hives in fields, maintain quality standards and make best use of governmental facilities available. He asked department officers to prepare a good project on bee keeping for financial help.

Status Regarding Implementation of Ayog's Recommendations

Haryana Kisan Ayog had submitted its first report to the Honorable Chief Minister on 20 December, 2011 which included 44 recommendations relating to land, water, input delivery system, credit, marketing, risk management and insurance, livestock, fisheries and issues of general importance. The progress regarding action taken is reviewed periodically under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister. The status regarding implementation of various recommendations is given below:

- Haryana Government (Revenue & Disaster Management Department) had earlier notified the Land Acquisition Policy on 9-11-2010, which was further revised on 11-8-2011. Currently, it is one of the best policies in the country to safeguard the interests of our farmers. This policy has been further amended and the land owners have been made partners in the development of residential and industrial hubs.
- Stamp duty chargeable under Stamp Act, 1899, in respect of instruments executed by the agriculturist in favor of a commercial bank for securing loan for agriculture and allied purposes, has been abolished.
- In case of reduction of water charges for fish ponds, the Hon'ble Chief Minister accepted the recommendation of HKA for reducing water charges for fish ponds and notification has been issued in this regard.
- On the recommendation of HKA, as desired by the CM HSAMB has agreed to provide space for Kisan Clubs in the mandies buildings to run their offices. Also, a separate scheme is being prepared to provide needed logistic support.
- The suggestion for amendment in rule lowering the fat and SNF content in case of exotic cows' milk has been recommended to the Central Government for consideration. The Department has issued a No Objection Certificate for conversion of the existing slaughter house at village Satakpur into a modern Abattoir.
- The issue of providing Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to all willing non-defaulter farmers is under active consideration of State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC), Haryana. The decision of SLBC will be complied with by the Central Cooperative Bank. The steps are being taken to ensure that KCC are issued to all the farmers in a time bound manner.
- Keeping in view, the imbalanced use of chemical fertilizers in the State, the farmers are advised and educated regarding the judicious use of chemical fertilizers as per their soil requirement. A total of 13.65 lakh farming families have been issued with Soil Health Cards. The remaining 1.63 lakh farming families are being targeted to be issued Soil Health Cards before the close of the current financial year.
- For easy availability of inputs, the Agriculture Department is in the process of creating single window system for extension services, through which farmers will get all information regarding schemes, extension services, availability of input, subsidy etc. For monitoring of the progress and proper coordination, the Agriculture Department has established two high level committees, namely State Level Coordination Committee and State Level Sanctioning Committee under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister, Haryana and Chief Secretary, Haryana, respectively.
- In order to arrest further deterioration/ restoration of soil health, Department of Agriculture has taken various initiatives such as green manuring, summer moong planting, zero tillage technology, soil health cards to the farmers. All these initiatives are being subsidized in order to help/motivate farmers to adopt these practices. Out of 33 soil testing laboratories, 21 have been upgraded to test soil micronutrient deficiency. Farm implements like zero till seed drill, straw reaper, reaper binder and turbo seeder etc. are being given on 50% subsidy to the farmers.
- Haryana Irrigation Department has introduced a rotational system for the release of water in canal networks and further fixation of warabandi system for distribution of water among various share-holders through their respective outlets. This whole arrangement makes efficient use of canal water. Other initiatives are the formation of water users associations, emphasis on micro irrigation system to increase water use efficiency through financial incentives, installation of digital data loggers to monitor water quality, underground pipe lines, and promotion of laser land leveler. Decision regarding Regulatory Authority is under consideration. All these initiatives are supported by varying level of financial subsidies. Further, water resources are being supplemented by Ground Water Recharging Schemes, adoption of water conservation measures, rehabilitation of canal network, etc. Water resources will be further strengthened by construction of Renuka Dam, construction of Up-stream Storage Dam on River Yamuna and construction of 2nd Ravi-Beas Link. Regarding discharge of industrial effluent and sewage water, Haryana Irrigation Department has issued orders that nobody will be allowed to discharge any untreated industrial/ sewage effluent into canal. Only treated effluent, meeting required standards under Environment Protections Rules 1986 shall be allowed with the permission of competent authority. Guidelines for permission to discharge have also been issued.
- The quality of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides is strictly monitored as per the provisions of the Seeds Act, 1966, Seed Control Order, 1983, Fertilizers Control Order,

1985 and Insecticides Act, 1968. A special quality control campaign to ensure supply of quality agricultural inputs to the farmers has been launched in the State, both during Kharif and Rabi season. Keeping in view the importance of seed, the Seed Production Program is now planned much in advance with main emphasis on new improved varieties and hybrids.

- The Punjab Agricultural Produce Markets (Haryana Amendment) Bill, 2012 has been enacted. It includes establishment of collection centers to facilitate direct purchase of horticulture produce from farmers, provision of primary processing facilities such as grading, packaging and storage in these collection centers and market yards in PPP mode and establishment of markets of National importance/ Terminal markets. The proposed amendments also seek to facilitate establishment of electronic spot exchanges. It is proposed to construct storage facilities at all collection centers.
- Protected cultivation is a viable option for increasing per unit production and thereby per capita income. However, due to high initial investment, higher subsidies/assistance is being extended to promote protected cultivation in the State.
- To check indiscriminate breeding of cattle and buffaloes, the Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Haryana and Haryana Livestock Development Board (HLDB) have taken concrete steps by way of providing artificial insemination (AI) services with quality germ-plasm semen at the farmers' doorsteps, through a network of 2751 veterinary institutions in the state and a renowned NGO- JK Gram Vikas Trust. For conservation and genetic improvement, three bull-mother farms, one for Murrah, second for Hariana, Sahiwal and Tharparkar and third one for exotic and crossbred cows have been established at Govt. Livestock Farm, Hisar. To promote in-situ conservation of elite animals of Murrah, a unique incentive oriented scheme operational in the state under which cash incentive ranging from Rs. 5000/- to Rs. 25000/- is given to the owners of these buffaloes with the condition that the farmers would retain the buffalo for at least up to the completion of the current lactation. Proposal for import of sexed semen technology in buffaloes is under active consideration of the Government. Also, the Govt. of Haryana has accepted the recommendation of Haryana Kisan Ayog (HKA) to have a Livestock Mission initiated under the current plan with specific budgetary allocation.
- To meet out fodder seed requirement, department of Agriculture, Haryana is implementing an accelerated fodder development scheme under the aegis of RKVY which will solve the problem of fodder seeds availability in the state up to a large extent. Rolling plan

is being proposed for implementation jointly by Department of Agriculture and State Seed Development Corporation.

- Efforts are also being made to strengthen the Kisan Clubs. The field functionaries of Agriculture Department regularly attend the meetings of these Kisan Clubs and educate them regarding new advances in agriculture. Kisan Clubs are being provided package of practices to update their knowledge and skills. Posters, CDs and short films, are also provided to them.

Meeting of Working Group on “Productivity Enhancement of Crops in Haryana”

A meeting of Working Group (WG) on “Productivity Enhancement of Crops in Haryana” was held on August, 17, 2013 at TAAS office, PUSA, New Delhi. Dr. P. L. Gautam, Chairman, Working Group, Dr. M. S. Kairon, Former Director, Central Institute of Cotton Research, Nagpur and Dr. Sain Das, Former Director, Directorate of Maize Research, New Delhi, both members of the WG, and Dr. R. S. Dalal, Member Secretary, HKA and Dr. R. B. Srivastava, Consultant participated.



Working group meeting participants

The meeting was organized to discuss and finalize the revised draft report on “Productivity Enhancement of Crops in Haryana”. The group felt the desirability for establishment of “Gene Bank” at CCSHAU, establishment of “Hybrid Seed Production Cell” and launching of “State Seed Mission” in Haryana. The WG is of the opinion that micromanagement of natural resources should be given priority, and therefore, mechanization of small farms is urgently needed. Special attention is needed to develop climate resilient varieties / hybrids in all the crops grown under different agro-climatic conditions. It is being suggested that export oriented crops like basmati rice and guar be given high priority, besides the crops which can be grown successfully under the diversification program, public - private - partnership also needs to be strengthened.

The refinement in IPM approach to make it easily adaptable and farmer friendly and development of decision support system has also been suggested. The draft report is being finalized for submission to the Government soon.

LFM Working Group Consultation Meet

The Haryana Kisan Ayog convened a meeting of the Working Group on 'Linking Farmers to Market in Haryana' on 13 September, 2013 in the Office Chamber of the Chairman of the Working Group Dr. Ramesh Chand, Director, NCAP, Library Avenue, Pusa, New Delhi to review the progress of draft report writing. The working group had detailed discussion with all the stakeholders. It has examined existing structure of production and marketing, analyzed present pattern of marketing channels, and has adopted futuristic approach. It presents future demand scenario and describe opportunities it offer for farmers of the State. Some diagnosis and suggestion following from the preparatory work are as under:

The various problems facing the present agricultural marketing system are; too many intermediaries, inadequate infrastructure for storage, sorting, grading or post harvest management; private sector unwilling to invest in logistics of infrastructure under prevailing conditions, mandi staff ill-equipped and untrained, market information not easily accessible, and impediments in free movement, storage and transport of produce. Thus, the APMC Act which was enacted to protect farmers' interest and increase marketing efficiency and transparency is now being used to deny opportunities to farmers for better price realization, and preventing competition and guarding interest of middlemen.

Some innovative marketing mechanisms have been developed in some states which involve direct sale of farm produce to consumers, sale of produce to buyers without routing produce through mandi, and group marketing etc. Many states have attempted to promote direct sale by making arrangements for sale of produce by farmers to consumers at designated places in urban areas. However, the scale of operation of these marketing arrangements is quite low. Another successful example of linking producers to consumers and eliminating middlemen is of "SAFAL" a division of National Dairy Development Board. Also farm producer's organizations of various forms are emerging as a new model for organized marketing and farm business.

Direct purchase of farm produce by retailers has seen steady increase with the growth of organized retailing. This is expected to witness accelerated growth with the entry of FDI in organized retail. Food World has been the leader among the organized food retail chains and there are many more retailing agencies. Integration of farmers into the retail chain through contractual arrangement can fetch higher and assured prices to farmers and at the same time allow food retail chains to plan the quality and quantity of supply. The other advantages of the model are reduction in price risk,

transportation costs, handling costs, absence of middlemen and assured market. Small holders, though innovative, suffer from low scale. Thus, they need institutions to give them bargaining power as well as overcome scale disadvantage.

Report on Rainfed Area Development Finalized

The Working Group (WG) meeting consisting of Dr. A. K. Sikka, Chairman and Dr. G. B. Raturi, Dr. K. R. Solanki as Member and Dr. D. P. Singh, Consultant and Nodal Officer of HKA held on July 11-12, 2013 in the Office of DDG (NRM), ICAR, New Delhi to discuss and finalize the draft on Rainfed Area Development in Haryana. The WG finalized the draft consisting of five chapters. The recommendations part includes policy, institutional developmental and researchable issues. The draft report has also been sent for comments to experts and various stakeholders so that same is finalized by October end.



Working group finalizing the report

HKA Office Shifted to Panchkula

The Haryana Kisan Ayog has shifted its headquarters from the premises of CCSHAU, Hisar to Anaj Mandi, Sector-20, Panchkula. It has started functioning from its new office w.e.f. 16 September, 2013. The Ayog thanks the Haryana State Agriculture Marketing Board (HSAMB) for providing building and office space to the Ayog at Panchkula.



Head Office

Lecture on Oilseeds

Dr. R. S. Paroda, Chairman, Haryana Kisan Ayog, and former Secretary DARE & Director - General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), has called for revival of focus on oilseeds in order to reduce dependency on imports and encourage domestic production. While delivering Dr. M. V. Rao Lecture on emerging concerns of Indian agriculture at Directorate of Oilseeds Research, Hyderabad on August 25, 2013, he said that there had always been a huge gap between the domestic demand and production of oilseeds in the country. He stressed upon having a clear national policy on increasing oilseeds



Dr. Paroda addressing the participants

production by bridging the yield gaps through technological interventions as was achieved during the “Technology Mission on Oilseeds” in the early 1990s. Referring to the changes made in duties now and then in our Exim Policy, he

felt that it was like firefighting operation to meet increasing domestic demand. Obviously, India can not afford to depend on such large scale import of Rs. 60,000 crores annually. He opined that the country needs to have a long term policy to ensure increased domestic production.

In his lecture, Dr. Paroda critically analyzed the availability and demand scenario of oilseeds in the country. He informed that the demand for vegetable oils has grown by three fold in last two decades (from 4 kg to 14 kg per person per annum). Dr. Paroda suggested that minimum support price (MSP) linked with procurement would play an important role in increasing area under oilseed as well as production. According to him, the low productivity and uncertain production of oilseeds were mainly due to their cultivation under rainfed conditions. It was also constrained by abiotic stresses, and several pests and diseases that are being further aggravated by climatic change. Therefore, he emphasized on strengthening research and development pursuits to promote high yielding hybrids and promotion of GM oilseed crops like soybean and rapeseed mustard. Innovation like conservation agriculture, higher seed replacement of improved varieties / hybrids, integrated nutrient management (INM) and integrated pest management, as well as resilience in agriculture need spread in new areas including north eastern region. Scope of soybean in northern states to break rice - wheat cropping system may also be very promising. He concluded that there is no other option but to have “Second Oilseeds Mission” initiated as a national priority for enhancing oilseeds production so as to attain greater self-sufficiency.

Maj. Gen. Shri Kant Sharma (Retd.) joins as Vice Chancellor, LLRUVAS

Maj. Gen. (Dr.) Shri Kant joined as first regular Vice Chancellor of Lala Lajpat Rai University of Veterinary & Animal Sciences, Hisar on 21 June, 2013. Maj. Gen. Shrikant is MVSc (Vety Bacteriology and Hygiene). He served RVC of Indian Army with distinction from 1976 till his retirement on 31 March 2011 and received coveted award of Sena Medal (SM) and Vishishit Seva Medal (VSM) from President of India. He served as President of Veterinary Commission at National and International Equestrian events, Chairman of the Study Team for reorganization of Military Farms of Indian Army, qualified Staff Defence Management Course (SDMC); pioneer Instructor of Biological Warfare in the Faculty of NBC Protection, College of Military Engineering, Pune. He held numerous Regimental, Staff and Instructional positions and attained the rank of Major General.

He was conferred with the Fellowship of the National Academy of Veterinary Sciences, India and Indian Society for Advancement of Canine Practice. His immediate priorities will be construction of new campus of the university, establishment of new colleges of Dairy Technology and Fisheries, Institute of Animal Biotechnology and Paravets, and creation of super specialty diagnostic laboratory-cum-epidemiological centre with BSL-3 facilities.



Maj. Gen. Shri Kant Sharma

Sh. Brijendra Singh Joined as Director, Agriculture

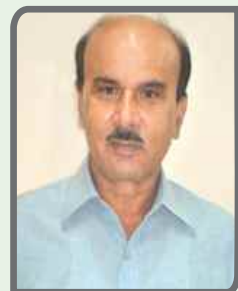
Mr. Brijendra Singh, IAS has taken over as Director and Special Secretary, Agriculture, Haryana. Mr. Singh has served as Managing Director, Haryana Warehousing Corporation, Director General, Technical Education, Haryana and Director, Medical Education & Research before taking over as head of the Agriculture Department. Mr. Singh is also holding the charge of Managing Director, Haryana Agro Industries Corporation in addition to his responsibility as Director, Agriculture.



Sh. Brijender Singh

Dr. G. S. Jakhar Joined as DG, Animal Husbandry

Dr. Gajender Singh Jakhar has taken over the charge of the post of Director-General, Animal Husbandry & Dairying Department in Haryana Government. Dr. Jakhar who has been instrumental in formulation and implementation of different farmer-friendly schemes in the Department, had been working as Joint Director before his promotion and was promoted recently as Officer-on-Special Duty (Animal Husbandry & Dairying), equivalent to the post of Director, Animal Husbandry & Dairying. Dr. Jakhar is a well-known Animal Breeder and has published many research papers in national and international journals. He is also the President of Haryana Veterinary Council which is the statutory regulating body for Veterinary Education and Practice in the State.



Dr. G. S. Jakhar

Murrah Buffalo Fetches Record Price

Sh. Kapoor Singh, a farmer in the village Singhwa Khas, Hisar, Haryana recently in August, 2013 sold his Murrah buffalo for Rs. 25 lakh and made a record in the country. The buffalo named Laxmi was sold to Shri Rajeev, a farmer from Andhra Pradesh. Sh. Kapoor Singh, fond of keeping elite buffaloes purchased Laxmi for Rs. 2.5 lakh from his own village in 2011. Her average milk yield was 22.5 litres/day with peak milk yield of 28 litres/day. The buffalo calved two times, had pregnancy of 8.5 months at the

Prize of Rs. 51,000 in The National Livestock Championship held at Muktsar, Punjab in 2013. She was also adjudged as the best Murrah buffalo during the competi-



Sh. Kapoor Singh with Laxmi

time of sale. At the age of 4.5 years Laxmi won several awards at various national and state level competitions for her milk yield performance and breed characteristics. She was adjudged the best Murrah buffalo in Milk and got First



2 year old male calf sold @3 lakh

tions held at Cattle Fair at Muktsar, Punjab and CIRB, Hisar in 2013. Laxmi was also the show-stopper buffalo in the first ever Murrah catwalk organised at Jind, Haryana in 2012. Sh. Kapoor Singh organised a farewell party in the village after the sale of the buffalo. One of the male calves born to Laxmi was sold for Rs. 3 lakh at the age of two years to Shri Bhupender Malik of village Bahu Akbarpur, Rohtak. Laxmi became a news highlight after her historical sale for Rs. 25 lakh.

Success Story of A Progressive Farmer



Shri Balbir Singh

Shri Balbir Singh was born in village Saharwa, of Hisar-I block; district Hisar on 25th June, 1945. His father Shri Hari Singh was a farmer mainly practicing crop husbandry with few heads of livestock. Balbir Singh graduated from Government College, Hisar obtaining degree in Bachelor of Arts. Having interest in teaching profession he joined K. M. College of Education, Bhiwani and completed his Bachelor of Education program in the year 1967-68. Thereafter he joined State Government education department as a teacher and served in various capacity at different places. While remaining in service he completed his Master Degree Program in History in the year 2000. In the year 2000 he got promoted to the post of Head Master. He got superannuated in June 2003 after a successful teaching carrier of 35 years. In spite of service being his main occupation he has keen interest in farming since his childhood being son of a farmer.



View of straw berry field

Shri Balbir Singh after superannuation from active service got completely submerged in the farming profession. He has 12 acres of cultivable land. On account of his keen interest in farming he has leased in 8 acres more from neighbors. The entire holding is composed of sandy soil. His source of irrigation is a submersible tube well. Participation in training programs related to agricultural development arranged by different departments/institutions has been his poisson. The trainings which he obtained in progressive modern agriculture practices/ technologies paid rich dividend to Mr. Singh in turning his subsistence agriculture in a remunerative commercial venture.

Year 2005 was a year of land mark achievement for Mr. Balbir Singh in his journey to make agriculture a profitable proposition. He took initiative in Straw Berry cultivation on his sandy soil. Now Straw Berry is being grown

on more than 150 acre of land in his village and he has made it a movement for farming community. Though it was a difficult journey but he never looked back. The main problem Mr. Singh and his fellow farmers faced in the initial years was non availability of quality saplings. They used to purchase it from Himanchal Pradesh at a price of two rupees per sapling. Now they are importing sapling stock directly from California, USA and raise it in Himachal Pradesh during off season for planting at right time. With this arrangement now they are getting quality planting material at reasonable price. The other important problems being faced by the farmers were packaging material and marketing of ripe fruits.



Straw berry in full blossom

In order to protect the farmers interest he arranged to establish packaging boxes unit in his village for packaging and timely disposal in order to get better price. The other initiative he took to protect the farmer's interest is formation of Straw Barry Producers Cooperative in the village for marketing of their produce in Delhi market. Now, farmers are getting handsome return. Their average earning per acre is about rupees three lakh per year. Mr. Balbir Singh has a number of awards and recognitions. Presently he is President of Straw Berry Growers Association.



Harvesting of Matured Strawberry

Ayog's Publications

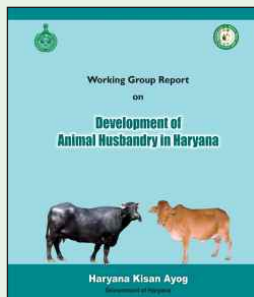
Proceeding on "Prosperity through Diversification in Agriculture"

The Haryana Kisan Ayog organised a seminar on "Prosperity through Diversification in agriculture" on 22 December, 2012 at NDRI, Karnal. The programme was organized in active collaboration with CIMMYT, ICAR and the state government. A large number of progressive farmers shared their experiences with the senior scientists and officers. The Ayog has brought out the proceedings of the seminar and its recommendations, which will be useful document for all the stakeholders.



Working Group Report on Development of Animal Husbandry in Haryana

The Haryana Kisan Ayog (HKA) constituted a Working Group (WG) on Development of Animal Husbandry in Haryana with Dr. M.L. Madan as chairman; Dr. Arun Varma and Dr. N. K. Khurana as members, and Dr. M. P. Yadav, Consultant HKA as Nodal officer. The WG has made far reaching recommendations in its report prepared after extensive interaction and deliberations with livestock farmers and other stake holders representing public and private sectors. The WG has taken into consideration the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities & challenges being faced by Livestock sector in the State, besides the impact and mitigation of climate change, implications of methane emissions from ruminants and animal welfare. The report provides developmental, technological and policy options, Livestock Development Goals-Vision 2020, emphasizing the need for launching "Livestock Development Mission" to achieve the targeted goals for enhanced livestock production and improvement. The report would facilitate animal husbandry development in Haryana with improved productivity, sustainability and profitability.



ACTIVITIES OF HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT, HARYANA

22nd Mango Mela at Pinjore

Agriculture Minister Sh. Paramvir Singh inaugurated 22nd Mango Mela organized by Haryana Tourism, jointly with the Horticulture Department, Haryana at Yadavindra Gardens, Pinjore on July 6, 2013. The main objective of the Mela was to encourage mango growers to adopt the latest practices to increase mango production and



Inauguration by Sh. Paramvir Singh

improve its quality in order to get maximum return for their produce by tapping the domestic as well as international market. A number of interesting activities were lined up for both the days of the Mela. On this occasion, Dr. Satyvir Singh, DG Horticulture, Dr. Arjun Singh Saini, Additional

Director, Dr. B. S. Sehrawat, Joint Director, Dr. Ranbir Singh, Dr. Kuldeep Singh, Dr. Dharam Singh Yadav, Deputy Director, Horticulture and all other officers were present.

Sh. Jagannath Pahadia, Governor, Govt. of Haryana, presided on the award presentation-cum-closing ceremony on second day of the mela. While addressing the crowd, the Governor appreciated the efforts of the Haryana Tourism and Horticulture Dept. for organizing the event. About three thousand farmers belonging to Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh etc participated in the annual event of two days. The Governor also awarded the best variety of mangoes and best mango cultivators. A total of 2,795 entries of different varieties of mangoes and its products had been exhibited by the farmers.



Farmers honored by His Excellency Jagan Nath Pahadia

Important News Items

Hooda launches food scheme

BHAWAN P. LOHAR/TNS

PANIPAT, AUGUST 20
Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda launched the National Food Security Scheme here today, accusing those opposing the historic step of working against the welfare of the poor.

Without naming any party or leader, Hooda said, "They did nothing for the poor when they were in power. Now they are criticising the scheme only for the sake of criticism." Asserting that they were not prepared to discuss the scheme in Parliament, Hooda claimed that six hours were earmarked for the debate, but the Opposition did not respond positively.

Underplaying the Jind rally of rival Congress leader Birender Singh, Hooda said, "Every rally by Congress men strengthens the party."

Hooda said the scheme, benefiting more than 1.26 crore people in the state, would ensure the right to food and half the population of Haryana would be directly benefited.

Beneficiary families would get rice, wheat and coarse grain at subsidised rates of Rs 3, Rs 2, and Re 1, respectively, he said.

A total of 12.84 lakh below poverty line (BPL) families would get two kg of sugar



- Scheme to benefit more than 1.26 cr people
- Rice, wheat and coarse grain at subsidised rates
- Rice ₹3
- wheat ₹2
- coarse grain ₹1
- A total of 12.84 lakh BPL families to get 2 kg of sugar per month @ 13.50 per kg
- 100 sq yd plots being given free to people belonging to Scheduled Caste, Backward Class-A and BPL categories
- 2 lakh houses in rural areas and 1.5 lakh in urban areas to ensure housing to poor

<< Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda launches the food scheme in Panipat on Tuesday.
Tribune photo: Ravi Kumar

CM a Vikas Purush, says Balbir Shah

PANIPAT: Estranged Congress MLA from Panipat Balbir Pal Shah, who created a flutter by submitting his resignation citing discrimination in development as reason, showered praises on Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda.

Addressing a gathering at the launch of Dal-Roti (Food Security) scheme, Shah not only praised the Chief Minister, but also described him as "Vikas Purush". However, he tried to defend his action saying that he had to take this step as development was not taking place in Panipat, but now his constituency was safe in the hands of Hooda. However, the Chief Minister said, "We are like brothers who can fight but would not get separated."

per month at the subsidised rate of Rs13.50 per kg per family, he said.

Dispelling the claim that Panipat had been discriminated in development, Hooda said Rs 1,015.31 crore had been spent on Panipat by the present government while the

previous government had spent Rs 247.95 crore during its six-year tenure.

Detailing steps taken by the government for the welfare of the poor, Hooda said plots measuring 100 square yards each were being given free to people belonging to

Scheduled Caste, Backward Class-A and BPL categories and a provision of Rs 1350 crore had been made for the purpose in the Budget for 2013-14.

He said two lakh houses would be constructed in rural areas and 1.5 lakh in urban

areas to ensure housing to the poor. He said the affordable housing policy had been framed to provide houses to those in the medium categories. Under this scheme, 1.25 lakh flats would be constructed in the next three years, he added.

Lakshmi, show stopper buffalo at Jind show, sold for ₹25 lakh

DEEPENDER DESWAL/TNS

HISAR, AUGUST 8
'Black Beauty' Lakshmi, the show stopper buffalo in the Murrah catwalk two years ago in Jind, has fetched a whopping Rs 25 lakhs to its owner. The deal has been finalised and an Andhra Pradesh farmer has accepted the offer. Two cattle middlemen brokered the deal between him and the buffalo owner Kapoor Singh, a resident of Singhwa Khas village in the district.



OWNER'S PRIDE: Lakshmi, the Murrah buffalo

BLACK BEAUTY

- The buffalo is blessed with special qualities
- With proper diet, the milk yield goes up exceptionally
- During the first lactation period, it yielded 22.5 litres milk
- It's highest milk yield is 28 litres a day

This is tipped to be the highest price at which a buffalo has been sold in the country. Lakshmi, which was adjudged the best buffalo in the Muktsar cattle fair earlier this year, had bagged prices worth around Rs 3 lakh in milk yield and other contests. One of its male calves was sold for Rs 3 lakh.

Kapoor Singh is elated over the successful bid. He stated that he had quoted the price hoping that the purchasing party would turn down the offer. "But it seems that he was determined to acquire Lakshmi as he had offered Rs 19 lakh a few months back", said the cattle rearing farmer.

Extremely satisfied, Andhra farmer Rajiv Sarpanch would

take the buffalo home in a couple of days.

Kapoor informed, "The deal materialised on Tuesday. On being approached to sell Lakshmi over phone by the middleman, I demand Rs 25 lakh which seemed an unrealistic figure to me as I was not too keen to sell the buffalo. Within minutes, I got a call from the middleman telling me that the party has accepted the offer and is making the advance payment of Rs 4 lakh".

Kapoor said Rajiv immediately left for Haryana and arrived today with full payment. The two middlemen Raju Punjabi of Rohtak and Ramu of Gaddi Kheri village are excited for brokering the deal. Impressed with the deal, buffalo owner has decided to double the commission fee of

the brokers. "Though there is a trend of two per cent commission on the sale deed, I would give them Rs 50,000 each", he said.

Ramu, who accompanied Rajiv, said, "Rajiv had a wish to own this buffalo after he spotted it at the Muktsar cattle fair. Obviously, he must have accepted the offer with some considerations. He is happy to shell out this amount for Lakshmi."

Kapoor informed that he purchased the buffalo for Rs 2.5 lakh two years back. "I find that the buffalo has special qualities. With proper diet, the milk yield improved exceptionally. During the first lactation period, it yielded 22.5 litres milk. It's highest milk yield is 28 litres a day."

Continued on page 13

'Focus on oilseeds needs to be revived'

Our Bureau
Hyderabad, Aug. 25

R.S. Paroda, Chairman, Haryana Kisan Ayog and former Director-General of ICAR, has called for revival of focus on oilseeds in order to reduce dependency on imports and encourage domestic production.

"We must have a clear national policy of bridging the yield gaps and increased oilseeds production to reduce vegetable oil imports as was achieved during the Technology Mission on Oilseeds in the early 1990s," he said.

Delivering the M.V. Rao Lecture on emerging concerns of Indian agriculture here, he had said that there had always been a huge gap between the domestic demand and production.

DUTY CHANGES

Referring to the changes in



Dr. R. S. Paroda

duties made now and then in the Exim Policy, he said it was like fire fighting.

"You cannot depend on this forever.

"You need to have a long term policy," he said.

He said the demand for vegetable oils has grown by 3 fold in last two decades. The per capita consumption would grow up to 16.43 kg a year by 2020 from about 14 kg now.

It would go up to 17.52 kg by 2030 and 19.16 by 2050.

The demand for edible oils from industry too would grow.

SUPPORT PRICE

He said support price would play an important role in increasing the oilseed area.

"The support price is evidently in clear favour of rice and wheat compared to oilseeds mainly on account of food security considerations.

Similar consideration is warranted for oilseeds as well," he felt.

Paroda said low productivity and uncertain production of oilseeds was mainly due to their cultivation under rainfed conditions.

It was also constrained by several biotec stresses such insect pests and disease that were being further aggravated by changing climatic conditions.

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Farmers come out of wheat-paddy cycle Grow groundnut on nearly 25,000 acres in Sirsa, Fatehabad

SUSHIL MANAV
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

SIRSA/FATEHABAD, JULY 11

With more farmers coming out of the routine wheat-paddy or wheat-cotton crop cycle, farmers are now going for newer crops that were unheard of in these areas in the past.

This time, groundnut crop has been grown on nearly 25,000 acres of land in Sirsa and Fatehabad.

Last year, the crop was grown hardly on 2,500 acres in Fatehabad and 3,200 acres in Sirsa district.

"The area has increased almost five times this year. This is mainly because the crop fetched lucrative price last year while in contrast,

the prices of cotton remained much lower than expectations," said Fatehabad Deputy Director (Agriculture) Anup Singh.

In Sirsa's Chopta block, Nathusari, Darba, Keranwali, Makhusarani and in Ellenabad blocks, Kheri, Gusaniana, Joranwali are among villages where farmers have opted for groundnuts in large numbers.

"In Fatehabad, sowing of groundnuts has been concentrated in Mehuwala, Ban Mandori, Khabra Kalan, Pili Mandori, Dhingsara, Dhand, Kirdhan, Sooli Khera and Bhattu villages," said Rakesh Kumar, a technical assistant in the Agriculture Department at Fatehabad.

"I find this crop more

lucrative and easier to grow than cotton. There are no repeated sprays of pesticides and absolutely no hassles of running after labourers during harvesting," said Ran Singh, a farmer from Darba village in Sirsa.

"In contrast, we have to invest much on inputs for cotton and in the end, there is no guarantee of getting proper returns," he added.

Farmers get an average yield of six quintals of groundnut per acre and with the maximum price of Rs 6,000 per quintal the crop fetched last year; groundnut is not a bad bargain for the farmers.

In comparison, the yield of cotton is nearly 8 quintals per acre and its average price

remained near Rs 4,500 last year, the output for the farmers is almost the same, while they have to invest much less on inputs and labour in case of groundnut.

Rajinder Singh, technical assistant in the Agriculture Department at Sirsa, said the department had set up demonstration plots of groundnuts in Ellenabad and Chopta blocks to promote its farming.

Groundnut is essentially a tropical plant that needs a long and warm growing season. Groundnut thrives best in well drained sandy loam soil seen in Sirsa and Fatehabad villages situated on Haryana's border with Bhadra and Nohar areas of Rajasthan.

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