

F.No.29-3/2016-NRM-I
Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare
(NRM Division)

Room No. 102 B-Wing, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated: 27th December, 2016

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub. Minutes of the meeting cum presentation on Revitalization of National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) - reg

I am to convey that a meeting cum presentation on Revitalization of National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) – an attached office of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmer's Welfare was organized under the Chairmanship of **Secretary (AC&FW) on 21st December 2016 (Wednesday) at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.**

2. I am enclosing a copy of the minutes of aforesaid meeting for kind perusal and necessary action.
3. The issues with the approval of Secretary (AC&FW).

Encl. : Minutes of the meeting

(C.M. Pandey)
Additional Commissioner
Tel No.011-23383772

Distribution:-

1. Dr. K Alagusundaram, Deputy Director General (NRM), Krishi Anusandhan Bhawan-II, IARI Campus, Pusa, New Delhi. Tel./Fax 25848366.
2. Smt. A. Neeraja, Joint Secretary (RKVY), R.No. 299 C, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
3. Smt. I. Rani Kumudini, Joint Secretary (INM & DM), Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
4. Dr. J.P Mishra, Advisor (Agriculture), NITI Aayog, Yojana Bhawan, New Delhi
5. Shri N.K. Gupta, Director (Personnel), R.No. 248, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
6. Shri B. Rath, Additional Commissioner (RFS), Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
7. Shri Pankaj Tyagi, Director (NRM&RFS), Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
8. Dr. M.K. Srivastava, Director (AH&F), NRAA, NASC Complex, New Delhi.
9. Shri Rohit Mathur, Director (Budget), R.no. 248, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.
10. Shri Dinesh Arora, Deputy Secretary (IFD), R.No. 149, Krishi Bhawan, N.Delhi

Copy to : PPS to Secretary (AC&FW) / PPS to AS&FA / PSO to AS (RKVY & NRM) / PS to JS (NRM & RFS) & CEO (NRAA)

Minutes of meeting held under Chairmanship of Shri S. K. Pattanayak, Secretary (AC&FW) regarding revitalization of National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) held on 21.12.2016 at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi

A meeting cum presentation under the chairmanship of Shri S.K. Pattanayak, Secretary (AC&FW) was organized in Room No. 138, at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi regarding Revitalization of National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) and revision of its mandates with a view to address the issues of 150 most vulnerable drought prone districts for comprehensive agriculture development including water conservation, water budgeting & accounting. In this meeting, following officers were present :-

- (i) Shri Jalaj Shrivastava, Additional Secretary (NRM), DAC&FW;
- (ii) Sh. R. B. Sinha, JS(NRM&RFS) and CEO(NRAA), DAC&FW;
- (iii) Dr. J.P. Mishra, Advisor (Agri.), NITI Aayog;
- (iv) Shri C. M. Pandey, Additional Commissioner (NRM&NRAA);
- (v) Shri Panjak Tyagi, Director (NRM&RFS);
- (vi) Dr. M. K. Srivastava, Director (AH&F), NRAA;
- (vii) Shri R. A. S. Patel, Assistant Commissioner(NRM).

2. Shri R. B. Sinha, Joint Secretary (NRM&RFS) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO),NRAA welcomed the participants and gave background on establishment of National Rainfed Area Authority as an attached office of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare (DA,C&FW). He mentioned that this meeting has been convened to discuss and revisit the mandates of NRAA and bring it in tune with present days concerns in area for agriculture.

3. Shri C. M. Pandey, Additional Commissioner (NRM&NRAA) laid a presentation and explained the existing mandates including reasons for shortfalls in achieving the goal assigned to NRAA. He indicated that there are 18 sanctioned posts of various levels, out of which only two posts are in position. Similarly, in past also the organization was managed by couple of Technical Experts and few outsourced staff. He also presented need of revitalization of NRAA along with proposed change in mandates to address the issues of climatic aberration in agriculture sector.

4. Shri S.K. Pattanayak, Secretary (AC&FW) opined that in recent past climatic variability including frequent drought and flood have been noticed in different parts of country. He told that nearly 150 districts have been identified as most vulnerable drought prone districts across the country. Therefore, NRAA should play the role of knowledge repository of various technological interventions and best practices available with research institutions like CRIDA, CAZRI ICRISAT etc. and should give probable substitute/solutions for different type of climatic conditions to these districts. Besides, best practices for use of urban sewage treated water for irrigation, roof top water harvesting in rural areas need be to documented and popularized. NRAA should also educate the people on technical inputs; like construction of small pond in the lower part of each farm and sunken pond in river bed for conservation of rain water etc. This will not only reduce peak flood during monsoon but also augment the

ground water and may help in providing supplementary irrigation during lean season. Large scale capacity building and awareness for bringing behavioral changes through co-operative efforts, for conservation and management of natural resources with water as a critical resource to be also taken up by NRAA. He also emphasized that for all these activities NRAA may also undertake some pilot works in these districts.

5. Shri Jalaj Shrivastava, Additional Secretary (RKVY & NRM) mentioned that for identification and testing of various technological models, NRAA would be requiring some fund for piloting in 150 most vulnerable drought prone districts and suggested that some fund need to be provided and kept at disposal of NRAA for such activities in addition to its financial support under regular non-plan. Secretary (AC&FW) further indicated that funds for this purpose can be provided from RKVY as a sub-scheme of NRAA. Accordingly, NRAA should prepare plan for technological interventions for 150 most vulnerable districts and send it to RKVY division for consideration. As RKVY Division is re-formulating schemes, they may consider this for inclusion in the guidelines

6. Dr. J. P. Mishra, Advisor(Agriculture), NITI Aayog also supported the views of Secretary (AC&FW) and mentioned that NRAA should be repository of knowledge and recent technological advances required for addressing the challenges of Rainfed Areas particularly in 150 most vulnerable districts. NRAA should also develop various models adaptable in these districts for enhancing agriculture production on sustainable basis including package of practices for livelihood support systems for enhancing farmers income. He further added that outcomes of NICRA – ICAR project may be taken forward by piloting in some of the models in these districts.

7. After detailed deliberations and discussions following decisions were taken:-

- (I) As Recruitment Rules (RRs) of Senior Technical Assistant (STA) and Director are already approved and notified, therefore, the posts of STA should be immediately advertised and filled up. Similarly, the proposal for filling of post of 5 Directors (Technical) and one Director (Finance & Admin) was advertised earlier need to be scrapped and re-advertised immediately;
- (II) The Recruitment Rules for one post of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and five Technical Experts which are approved in principle by Department of Personel & Training (DoPT) should be taken up with highest priority for finalisation and thereafter filling inline of approved RRs;

REVISED MANDATES OF NRAA

A meeting cum presentation on Revitalization of National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) – an attached office of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmer's Welfare was organized under the Chairmanship of Sh. S. K. Pattanayak, **Secretary (AC&FW) on 21st December 2016 (Wednesday) at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.** In this meeting the future action plan including revisiting of mandates of NRAA, in view of climatic variability, natural resources depletion and for doubling of farmers' income etc. were discussed. Accordingly, the revised mandates of NRAA are as under:-

1. Identification of best practices for rainfed agriculture available across different research organizations be collected for development of 150 rainfed most vulnerable districts;
2. Develop area specific farming system particularly for these 150 districts to achieve goal of making agriculture sustainable and profitable;
3. Piloting the best practices available in these districts to demonstrate their efficacy;
4. Developing various modules for Masters trainers for farming systems, water budgeting and accounting for these areas;
5. Assist States in revisiting the District Irrigation Plans (DIPs), if required for specific districts;
6. Assist States in preparation of Annual Action Plan of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) to focus on prioritizing operational area and cluster base irrigation chain development drawn from DIP;
7. Set research agenda including a critical appraisal of on-going programmes;
8. Suggests short & long term plans for sustainable development of rainfed area by promotion of efficient use of water for ensuring per drop more crop;
9. Monitoring and supervising of programmes implementation in identified 150 most vulnerable drought prone districts; and
10. Identification and recommendations of various agroforestry models suitable to 150 most vulnerable districts across the country.

(IV) With a view to facilitate undertaking pilot model for addressing 150 most vulnerable drought prone districts, a concept note indicating interventions required along with cost estimates etc. may be worked out immediately and provided to RKVY division for making necessary provisions in the guidelines. **It was also decided to make provision of Rs. 50 crore for this purpose under RKVY during 2017-18.**

(V) Sincere efforts should be made to provide market intelligence for agriculture produces as well as for timber species grown on the farms.

(VI) NRAA should involve in monitoring of difference in natural vegetation by adoption of recent tools and using Natural Vegetation Different Index (NVDI). A Matrix for increase in cropped areas, crop production including carbon sequestration need to be developed to further suggest best practices for climatic resilient agriculture.
