

Minutes of the Meeting of Central Steering Committee of Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern & Himalayan States(TMNE) held under the Chairmanship of Shri P.K. Basu, Secretary (A&C) on 20th April, 2010 at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.

The meeting of Central Steering Committee(CSC) of Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern & Himalayan States (TMNE) was held under the Chairmanship of Shri P.K. Basu, Secretary (A&C) on 20th April, 2010 to consider the Annual Action Plan (AAP) for 2010-11. The list of participants is at

Annexure I.

The Chairman welcomed the members of CSC and the representatives of the State Govts. The representatives of the North Eastern and Himalayan States reported the status of implementation of TMNE Scheme and presented the detailed Annual Action Plan for 2010-11 for their respective states. Some of the key issues raised by the States are as under:

Himachal Pradesh:

Shri Ram Subhag Singh, Principal Secretary (Hort.) stated that the implementation of TMNE had resulted in increased productivity of fruits (11.94%), vegetables (9.50%), flowers (311.96%), etc. He explained the need for enhancing apple production and productivity in the State. He also requested assistance for import of improved varieties and clonal rootstocks for improving apple productivity and for power tillers taking into account the difficult terrain in management of orchards, which were agreed to.

Jammu & Kashmir:

Dr. G.H. Shah, Director (Hort.) was of the view that the survival percentage of plantations for providing maintenance subsidy was too high and requested for reduction in the level of survival percentage to 50%. He also suggested that concrete lining should not be made mandatory for construction of community water tanks. Shri Ashish Bahuguna, Additional Secretary emphasized that there should be minimum of 75% and 90% survival during the first and second year after planting for proper establishment of

orchards. The Chairman observed that the lining material used in community tanks should be eco-friendly and cost effective.

Assam :

Shri R.T. Jindal, Agriculture Production Commissioner elaborated the efforts for increasing are under Bhut Jalakia (worlds hottest chillies) cultivation in the State. He also suggested that funds under TMNE should be released in one or two installments in order to plan the activities in a better way. Considering the need for effective implementation of the programmes in a time bound manner, Chairman agreed to the proposal for release of funds two installments.

Arunachal Pradesh:

Shri Nakang Tani, Department of Horticulture informed that Tissue culture units established in the State were not functioning properly due to shortage of manpower. He also informed that the State transportis its surplus horticulture produce to neighboring states through NERAMAC. Horticulture Commissioner stated that the State should develop a good monitoring and delivery mechanism to improve the status of implementation of various programmes.

Chairman advised that before setting up any infrastructure facility such as tissue culture units, States should clearly earmark adequate funds and manpower for their operationlisation.

Tripura:

Shri C.R. Bandyopadhyay, Director (Hort.) requested that ICAR should play a vital role in providing technical know-how as well as in production of quality planting stock. He also suggested that financial assistance provided for rejuvenation component appears to be inadequate and needs to be revised. Horticulture Commissioner informed that the present rate of assistance is quite adequate to take up rejuvenation of various perennial fruit crops. Additional Secretary requested ICAR to strengthen its activities under Mini Mission – I, especially in production of good quality planting material in adequate quantity.

Nagaland:

Director (Horticulture), Dr. N. Benjong Aier informed that after implementation of TMNE in Nagaland, the productivity of many fruit crops has increased considerably and attracted large number of rural people for taking up horticultural activities on commercial

scale. Chairman appreciated the progress made by the State and advised other States to also similarly improve their performance.

Mizoram:

Shri Samuel Rosanglura, Director (Horticulture) informed that the State was able to mitigate the adverse effects of the drought in 2009 through the interventions of TMNE. He further informed that Mizoram is self sufficient in production of quality planting material. He also raised the issue of high residual toxicity in horticulture produce and demanded that a laboratory be set up in the state to test the pesticide levels. Additional Secretary advised the State to work out trends in production and productivity of crops, before and after the implementation of TMNE to obtain a clear picture of impact of the Mission. He appreciated that Mizoram has been exporting flowers to three countries and earning substantial income for its farmers. He also advised the State representative to make use of the existing pesticide testing laboratory in Aizawl to test the levels of pesticide residues in horticulture produce.

Manipur:

Dr. K. Nagachan, Director (Hort.) gave an overview of the impact of mission and also presented the trends in production and productivity of horticultural crops before and after the implementation of TMNE Scheme. He further suggested that the cost norms of various components need to be revised and advocated for timely release of funds under the scheme. Additional Secretary informed that the issues raised by the State are being addressed and advised the State to focus more on production of quality planting material.

Sikkim:

Shri K.K. Singh, Principal Director (Hort.) stated that the protected cultivation of flowers and off season vegetables on commercial scale has become a major income earner for the State. He also informed that apple crop has been introduced in the state whose quality and yields are impressive. He further informed that kiwi and mango are the other crops introduced in the state. Additional Secretary asked to State to provide productivity trends in horticulture crops after the launch of TMNE scheme.

Meghalaya:

Agriculture Production Commissioner, Shri V.S. Oberoi observed that ICAR/SAU should play a major role in providing technical know-how as well as inputs. He volunteered to take up a pilot project for compilation of data on horticulture. He also sought clarification regarding mandatory setting up of tissue culture units under Model Floriculture Centres (MFC). He also requested for supply of quality planting material, credit and insurance for horticulture crops.

Additional Secretary, DAC agreed to the proposal of the State for taking up pilot project on horticulture database and requested ICAR to actively involve itself in production of quality planting material required by the state. He also clarified that the infrastructure in a Model Floriculture Centre would depend on the variety of crop hence it would not be mandatory to set up tissue culture units under each MFC.

Uttarakhand:

Shri G.S.Pande Additional Secretary, Govt. of Uttarakhand informed that the productivity of fruit crops had gone up by 87% after the implementation of the Mission. He also listed out the priorities of the state which include protected cultivation, production of quality planting material, value addition to horticulture produce and promotion of organic farming, etc. He requested that Uttarakhand may be allowed to use plastic tanks for storing water instead of concrete tanks in view of the steep terrain of the State.

Managing Director, SFAC observed that funds were released to the State for ropeways but no progress had been reported by the State so far.

Chairman advised the State to try out plastic tanks on pilot basis, which if found successful can be extended. He asked the State to expedite steps for utilization of funds released for setting up of ropeways, else return the funds without any further delay.

On completion of the presentations by the States, Additional Secretary invited representatives of ICAR and MFPI to make a presentation of their activities.

ICAR:

Dr. Umesh Srivastava, ADG(Hort.), ICAR informed that various production technologies of crops have been developed for North East & Himalayan States. Additional Secretary (DAC) asked for the list of production technologies that have been developed by ICAR

so that it could be circulated to all States. The representative of ICAR assured that the same will be furnished separately.

MFPI:

In response to a query by the representative of Ministry of Food Processing, Horticulture Commissioner informed that the decision of the Govt. is awaited on continuance of MM IV.

Project on control of Codling Moth in apple and apricots in J&K:

Dr. S. Bilal Ahmad of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture Science & Technology informed that a project proposal on codling moth for Rs. 2.50 crore had been approved by the CSC, out of which Rs. 65.00 lakh had been released during 2008-09. He requested for release of second installment of Rs. 65 lakhs during the current year, which was agreed to.

After detailed discussion, following decisions were taken:

1. Based on the potential, past performance and availability of funds, the state wise allocation of funds for implementation of Annual Action Plan under MM II of TMNE for 2010-11 is as under:

Mini Mission II

State	Allocation (Rs in crore)
A . NE States	
1. Arunachal Pradesh	27.00
2. Assam	35.00
3. Manipur	34.50
4. Meghalaya	29.00
5. Mizoram	33.00
6. Nagaland	37.00
7. Sikkim	30.50
8. Tripura	28.00
SFAC Services charges/TSG/ Projects/Misc.	2.00
Total A	256.00
B. Himalayan States	
1. Jammu & Kashmir	30.00
2. Himachal Pradesh	29.50
3. Uttarakhand	29.50
SFAC Services charges/TSG/ projects/Misc.	1.24
Total B	90.24

2. States should accord highest priority for production of quality planting material including import of improved varieties and clonal rootstocks of identified crops to meet the increasing demand of planting material for cultivation of horticultural crops.
3. Identification of priority crops for production to meet the demand for domestic consumption and exports.
4. States are requested to analyze productivity trends in horticulture sector in order to assess the impact of TMNE interventions.
5. ICAR is requested to provide necessary technical support and know-how to State Governments in areas of horticulture production and productivity. ICAR should also include representatives of States in committees for finalizing activities under MM I.
6. All TMNE States are requested to lay adequate emphasis for promotion of protected cultivation to improve productivity level of horticultural crops, adoption of improved production technologies including high density planting, canopy management, rejuvenation of senile orchards, etc. More focus is also required to enhance productivity of labour through effective utilization of farm tools and equipments.
7. Considering the difficult terrain of North Eastern and Himalayan States, it was decided to extend assistance for power tillers under farm mechanization.
8. The infrastructure of Model Floriculture Centres would depend on the variety of crop hence it would not be mandatory to set up tissue culture units under each MFC.
9. States were advised to create necessary infrastructure for marketing and PHM in line with horticulture production in the state.
10. Meghalaya would take up pilot project on generation of horticulture data base in the state.
11. State were requested to furnish (a) audited Utilization Certificate for the period ending 2008-09 and (b) Utilization Certificate for 2009-2010 together with physical progress report to facilitate timely release of funds for implementation of programmes in a time bound manner.

Additional Secretary requested all State Governments, Implementing Agencies, ICAR and SFAC to organize interactive/consultative meetings at regular intervals to address problems in effective implementation of programmes under TMNE.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Annexure I

Central Steering Committee Meeting of Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern & Himalayan States (TMNE) held on 20th April, 2010 at 11.00 A.M. under the Chairmanship of Secretary (A&C) in Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.

The following were present in the meeting:

1. Shri P.K. Basu, Secretary (A&C) - Chairman
2. Shri Ashish Bahuguna, Additional Secretary
3. Dr. Gorakh Singh, Horticulture Commissioner
4. Shri Bijay Kumar, Managing Director(NHB) and MD(SFAC)
5. Shri V.S. Oberoi, APC, Meghalaya.
6. Shri Iqbal Khandey, Principal Secretary, Srinagar.
7. Shri Ram Subhag Singh, Principal Secretary(Hort.), Shimla, H.P.
8. Shri R.T. Jindal, APC, Assam.
9. Shri K. Moses Chalai, Commissioner (Secy) Horticulture & Soil Conservation, Imphal, Manipur.
10. Shri G.S. Pande, Additional Secretary (Hort), Uttarakhand
11. Dr. Umesh Srivastava, ADG(Hort.), ICAR
12. Shri. K.S. Sethi, Director (Finance), DAC
13. Dr. S.K. Bhatia, Additional Commissioner (Horticulture), DAC.
14. Shri L. Sivarama Reddy, DC(Hort.), DAC.
15. Dr. Akali Sema, Director, CIH, Nagaland.
16. Dr. A.K. Tiwari, Dy. Adviser(Agri Monitoring), Planning Commission, New Delhi.
17. Shri K.K. Singh, Principal Director, Sikkim
18. Dr. G.H. Shah, Director (Horticulture), Srinagar.
19. Shri C.R. Bandyopadhyay, Director, Horticulture & Soil Conservation, Tripura, Agartala.
20. Shri Joseph Huntiq, Director, Horticulture, Nagaland
21. Shri Nakang Tani, Dy. Director of Horticulture, Arunachal Pradesh.
22. Shri D.K. Rai, Director, Horticulture, Sikkim.
23. Dr. K. Nagachan, Director, Horticulture, Manipur.
24. Shri Ratan Kumar Singh, Mission Director (TM), Manipur
25. Dr. N. Benjong Aier, Mission Director, Nagaland
26. Dr. Gurdev Singh, Director, Himachal Pradesh
27. Shri Samuel Rosanglura, Director, Mizoram
28. Dr. H. Barooah, O.S.D. (Agri.), Assam
29. Dr. Sheikh Bilal Ahmad, Professor & Head, SKUAST of Kashmir
30. Dr. Desh Bar Singh, Principal Scientist, CITH, Srinagar.
31. Dr. S.K. Chakrabarti, Head, CPRI, Shimla.
32. Shri Surendra Singh, Asstt. Industrial Adviser, MFPI, New Delhi.
33. Dr. R.K. Sharma, Sr. Deputy Director, NHB
34. Shri Lallan Rai, Asstt. AMA, DMI. NH-IV, Faridabad.
35. Dr. Honey Cheryan, Dy. Director, DSAD, Calicut, Kerala.
36. Shri Birendra Singh, AAO (TM Cell), Imphal.
37. Shri P.C. Ghrildiyal, Project Manager, Deptt. of Horticulture, Uttrakhand.
38. Shri V.P. Kukreti, HTM, Dehradun.
39. Dr. Surbhi Pandey, Coordinator, HTM, Uttrakhand.
40. Dr. M. Ninu, DDO, Arunachal Pradesh
41. Shri Mahendrapal, O.S.D., Horticulture, Uttrakhand.
42. Shri F. Lalith H.D.O., Directorate of Horticulture, Aizwal.
43. Shri Kurti Kumar, H.D.O., Directorate of Horticulture, Shimla.
44. Sh. D. R.K. Rao, US (Hort.), DAC.
45. Shri A.K. Nigam, Manager(Finance), SFAC.
46. Shri D. Bhuyan, Project Coordinator, SFAC
47. Shri R. Kumar, Jt. Managing Director, SFAC.
48. Shri Avinash Vanam, STA, DAC
49. Shri Sudhir Kumar, STA, DAC