

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CENTRAL STEERING COMMITTEE OF  
HORTICULTURE MISSION FOR NORTH EAST AND HIMALAYAN STATES HELD  
ON 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2011 AT KRISHI BHAVAN, NEW DELHI**

The meeting of Central Steering Committee (CSC) of Horticulture Mission for North East & Himalayan States (HMNEH) was held under the Chairmanship of Shri P.K. Basu, Secretary (A&C) on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2011 at 2.00 P.M. in Krishi Bhavan to consider the Annual Action Plan (AAP) for 2011-12. The list of participants is at Annexure - I.

Chairman welcomed the members of CSC and the representatives of the State Governments.

**Agenda-1:** Minutes of the CSC Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 circulated vide this office circular No.40-1/2010 - Hort.TM dated 03.05.2010, were confirmed.

**Agenda-2:** Action taken on the decisions of the CSC meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2010, were reviewed during the presentation by each of the beneficiary States.

**Agenda-3:** Power Point Presentation and review of the performance of each of the HMNEH beneficiary States was made and is briefly recorded in paras below State-wise including the final allocation agreed to in the meeting.

**(i) Arunachal Pradesh**

The State presentation was made by the Nodal Officer (HMNEH). The Chairman enquired about the strategy of the State for developing Horticulture Sector and priorities of the state government. The Nodal Officer, Horticulture (HMNEH), Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh informed that -

- Horticulture Department, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh has planned to bring an additional area of 20,000 ha under area expansion programme during the next three years. Accordingly, the State Government proposed to take up 5,000 ha during 2011-12.
- Organic farming is also a priority activity and on enquiry about its certification, it was informed that the State does not have any facility and hires the services of private companies. They requested the GoI to provide help in identifying the certifying agency to facilitate marketing of the organic produce. The Chairman asked MD, SFAC to assess organic certification requirement of each of NE states and to put up a comprehensive proposal.

**(Action: MD, SFAC).**

- Connectivity to markets for good remuneration is a basic infrastructure problem in the state, for which ropeways and air transport subsidy may be provided. The infrastructure gaps in the NE are being looked after by M/o DoNER, for which a comprehensive proposal from the State Govt. may be forwarded to the M/o DoNER.

**(Action: State Govt. & Hort. Division, DAC).**

- Assistance of ICAR needed for tackling citrus canker and die back disease of citrus and Apple scab. Regarding the control of diseases DDG, (Hort.), ICAR laid emphasis on quality planting material for which ICAR institutes would

provide nucleus seed and planting material to the State with proper tagging for mass multiplication. Further, ICAR would also liaison with states regarding other technical issues related to horticulture. **(Secretary, DAC to write to DG, ICAR; Action: Hort. Division, DAC).**

Chairman observed that progress of horticulture mechanization in the state was very poor, to which state representative informed that farmers were unable to provide matching amount for purchase of the machines even after providing subsidy. MD, SFAC, to examine the issue and to provide inputs.

**(Action: MD, SFAC).**

The CSC noted that the Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh has proposed an Annual Action Plan 2011-12 of MM-II for Rs.57.85 crore and after considering its past performance and priorities approved it with total outlay of Rs.40.00 crore.

**(ii) Assam**

The state presentation was made by the Director (Horticulture), Government of Assam. Chairman observed that State Govt. as per their presentation are reporting 100% achievement in almost all components, although as on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 they had reported physical achievement of less than 60%. Moreover, as on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011, there was an unspent balance of Rs.10.00 crore with the state which they claim to have utilized by 13<sup>th</sup> May 2011, which is not very convincing. The state representative tried to explain that due to State assembly election there was a delay in achieving the targets. The Chairman not being convinced by the justification directed that he would hold a review meeting with the Chief Secretary, before accepting the achievements reported by the state representative. **(Letter from Secretary, DAC to Chief Secretary (Assam) regarding the review of HMNEH; Action: Hort. Division, DAC).**

Following issues relating to the State were highlighted by the state representative:

- There is need for a corridor approach with Cold Chain facilities at Airports in the NE Region having connectivity with Metro Airports for sending horticultural perishables in fresh condition. **(Action: State Govt. & Hort. Division, DAC).**
- Procedures adopted by MFPI for sanctioning schemes should be streamlined on top most priority and there may be provisions for spot sanctioning of viable schemes. **(Letter from Secretary, DAC to the Secretary MFPI; Action: Hort. Division, DAC).**
- There is an urgent need to set up one most modern Terminal Market at Guwahati with connectivity to all major markets of the region. This will greatly facilitate growers for their market access.

The CSC deliberated on proposed Annual Action Plan 2011-12 of Govt. of Assam amounting to Rs.90.60 crore and after considering its performance etc., approved a total outlay of Rs.25.00 crore.

**(iii) Manipur**

Commissioner & Secretary (Hort.), Manipur presented a brief account of the progress made by the state during 2010-11 and informed about the main crops to

be undertaken during the current year. Regarding the priority of state, it was informed that -

- Creation of Green House facility;
- Training to farmers;
- Farm mechanization; and
- Market infrastructure;

Certain issues flagged by the state representative are as under-

- For PHM, pre-requisite of 50% credit linked back ended subsidy may be waived. Some limited and selected Projects may be taken up by Govt. Department/ Public Sector on 100% grant basis.
- End to end consultancy support may be provided for some selected activities/ crops through an organization like SFAC, New Delhi. **(Action: MD, SFAC & Hort. Division, DAC).**
- Certain level of transportation cost of inputs/materials to the remote areas may be supported. **(Action: State Govt. & Hort. Division, DAC).**

The Chairman observed that the State Govt. has created only 43% of targeted Green-house facility, trained only 19% of targeted farmers but achieved 99% in farm mechanization. However, the state representative was unable to inform about current status of 3 rural markets under construction. To this Chairman stated that lopsided achievement would hamper the overall development of horticulture in the state and so there should be a quarterly review including interaction with farmers by SFAC and DAC.

**(Action: MD, SFAC & Hort. Division, DAC).**

The CSC noted that the Govt. of Manipur has proposed an Annual Action Plan 2011-12 of MM-II for Rs.46.86 crore. After considering its past performance and priorities, a total outlay of Rs.40.00 crore was approved.

**(iv) Meghalaya**

MD, Meghalaya SFAC presented state's Annual Action Plan. The Chairman enquired about the major crops of Meghalaya and also desired to visit the state and review the work under HMNEH scheme. However, state representative informed that no progress has been made regarding the pilot project on generation of horticulture data base in the state and that unspent balance of Rs.50.00 lakh released during 2010-11 for this survey may be revalidated.

**(Action: Hort. Division, DAC).**

It was informed that state requires technical inputs to combat the problem of powdery mildew. **(Request to be made to ICAR Res. Station at Barapani, Meghalaya; Action: Hort. Division, DAC).**

The CSC noted that the Govt. of Meghalaya has proposed an Annual Action Plan 2011-12 of MM-II for Rs.48.83 crore. After considering its past performance and priorities, a total outlay of Rs.35.00 crore was approved.

(v) **Mizoram**

Director (Hort.), Govt. of Mizoram through his presentation apprised about the issues related to their State -

- Technical knowhow from ICAR for Anthurium cultivation and its disease control;
- Disease free planting material for mandarin orange is being produced but the same is insufficient, therefore, they would like to increase the capacity by establishing scion blocks and the interest accrued to the HMNEH bank A/c may be allowed to be utilized for this purpose;
- Onion storage facility;
- Damaged green-houses may be allowed to be repaired from interest amount available with the state;

The state was informed that regarding the technical inputs they may approach the ICAR institutes and for utilization of interest amount the approved components under the guidelines can be taken up with the approval of DAC. However, for other expenditure, a decision would be taken by the competent authority. **(Request to be made to ICAR Res. Institute, Barapani, Shillong Meghalaya; Action: Sate Govt. & Hort. Division, DAC).**

The CSC noted that the Govt. of Mizoram has proposed an Annual Action Plan 2011-12 of MM-II for Rs.40.00 crore and after considering its past performance and priorities it approved a total outlay of Rs.40.00 crore.

(vi) **Nagaland**

Mission Director (HMNEH) presented the key issues of the State -

- State is focusing on market infrastructure and 29 markets are being established.
- Proposals for processing units during 2010-11 were sent to MFPI, but no unit was sanctioned. **(Letter from Secretary, DAC to the Secretary MFPI; Action: Hort. Division, DAC).**
- Strengthening of Nursery Infrastructure.
- Horti. Link Roads from Production Areas. **(May be funded under PMGSY or by the M/o DoNER)**

Mission Director informed that control of fusarium wilt is a problem in Passionfruit crop and sought help from ICAR help. DDG (Hort.) informed that there is no solution to the problem. Therefore, multiple screening of planting material and replacing the present variety with Kaveri variety is recommended. **(Letter from Horticulture Commissioner to DDG Horticulture; Action: State Government & Horticulture Division, DAC).**

The CSC noted that the Govt. of Nagaland has proposed an Annual Action Plan 2011-12 of MM-II for Rs.54.64 crore and after considering its past performance and priorities, it approved a total outlay of Rs.40.00 crore.

**(vii) Sikkim**

Principal Director, Govt. of Sikkim in his presentation informed that-

- Adequate cold storage facilities and training institutes are being created. The state is also addressing the large cardamom problems by undertaking propagation of its planting material.
- Organic farming has been systematized by taking up internal control checks / system, documentation and certification. The certified produce is also being marketed in European countries like Germany. MD, SFAC to visit the state and get the facility extended to other NE states. **(Action: MD, SFAC).**
- He also informed that under greenhouses, citrus mother plants, cymbidium mother plants, etc. have been established for their mass multiplication. He informed that about 1 lakh planting material of Cymbidium is produced and Sikkim is able to provide it if any other state desires so.
- State is also focusing on Thailand Model of establishing Honey production Industry alongwith production of litchi, as both places have similar agro climatic conditions.

The CSC noted that the Govt. of Sikkim has proposed an Annual Action Plan 2011-12 of MM-II for Rs.43.13 crore and after considering its past performance and priorities it approved a total outlay of Rs.40.00 crore.

**(viii) Tripura**

Joint Director, Govt. of Tripura informed that state has prioritized the area expansion programme with a target of covering 35000 ha in 3 years. To meet the requirement, they have made arrangements for planting material from outside the state, like litchi from Muzzafarpur, Guava from, CISH, Lucknow, Citrus from NRC, Nagpur, etc.

The CSC noted that the Govt. of Tripura has proposed an ambitious Annual Action Plan 2011-12 of MM-II for Rs.53.96 crore and after considering its past performance and priorities, a total outlay of Rs.40.00 crore was approved.

**(ix) J&K**

Director (Hort.), Srinagar made a presentation and informed about priorities of the State as under:

- Mechanization;
- Canopy management;
- Development of irrigation infrastructure;
- Rejuvenation of old and senile orchards;
- Protected Cultivation;
- Vegetable Production / Vegetable Seed Production in Rural Areas;
- Organic Farming & Certification;

Director (Marketing), J&K informed that the State had submitted market proposals under MM-III of HMNEH, but till date no proposal has been sanctioned. Additional Secretary and FA advised that fresh approvals would be made only when the state Govt. submits UCs for previous releases for market infrastructure.

**(Action: Sate Govt.).**

For current year, CSC approved a total outlay of Rs.35.00 crore against the proposal of Rs.58.36 crore from the State.

**(x) Himachal Pradesh**

Director (Hort.) informed that the State was having Rs.33 crore as unspent balance by the end of 2009-10, however this amount has now been utilized. State's key issues are as below:

- Inclusion of RCC structure of Water storage tanks.
- Inclusion of "On Farm Handling Units" under MM-II.
- Increase the limit of maximum area under protected cultivation to 4000 sq m.

The CSC noted that the Govt. of H.P. has proposed an Annual Action Plan 2011-12 of MM-II for Rs.51.39 crore and after considering its past performance and priorities, it approved an outlay of Rs.35.00 crore.

**(xi) Uttarakhand**

Director (Hort.) Govt. of Uttarakhand through his presentations gave a brief account of the progress made by the state during 2010-11. It was observed that the State has taken a lead in development of horticulture sector and is one of the best performing states. He informed that the state is focusing on establishing processing units such as frozen pea processing units which has helped in creating crop clusters and has increased area under pea cultivation. The key issues identified by the state are as under:

- High density planting with canopy management.
- Rejuvenation of senile orchards to enhance productivity.
- Protected cultivation.
- Creation of water sources.
- Horticulture mechanization.
- Capacity building.

The CSC noted that the Govt. of Uttarakhand has made considerable progress and on the basis of its performance and priorities, it approved its Annual Action Plan 2011-12 with total outlay of Rs.40.00 crore.

**Agenda 4:** The CSC approved the allocations to each state under MM-II for 2011-12 as per the minutes of Agenda 3 above.

**Agenda 5:** Important initiatives taken by the beneficiary states were noted by the committee and it advised the state representatives to monitor sector specific important initiatives in horticulture during 2011-12.

**Agenda 6:** All the states agreed to provide information and to update records on web based monitoring of HMNEH, within the stipulated date each month. AS&FA, asked for details of the funds provided to NIC for developing web based monitoring and for internet connectivity under HMNEH.

**Important Decisions** that emerged during the meeting are bulleted below :

1. Quarterly review with updated photographs of various components under HMNEH.  
**(Action: MD, SFAC & Hort. Division, DAC).**
2. Horticulture Mechanization in NE states to be evaluated and inputs required to be suggested.  
**(Action: MD, SFAC).**
3. Progress made by Sikkim in the field of organic certification to be assessed and replicated in other NE states.  
**(Action: MD, SFAC).**
4. DG, ICAR to be requested for providing quality nucleus seed and planting material to the states and to render technical inputs to combat pathogens and diseases.  
**(Action: Hort. Division, DAC).**
5. Hill transport and air transport subsidy for horticulture produce of NE states to be taken up through M/o DoNER.  
**(Action: Hort. Division, DAC).**
6. Secretary (MFPI) to be requested to take up more viable projects in the NE states to facilitate the farmers with better remuneration.  
**(Action: Hort. Division, DAC).**
7. Regular updating of physical and financial achievements on web based monitoring system of HMNEH.  
**(Action: All the beneficiary states).**

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

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## **Annexure-I**

### **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS OF MEETING OF CENTRAL STEERING COMMITTEE FOR HORTICULTURE MISSION FOR NORTH EAST AND HIMALAYAN STATES HELD ON 13<sup>TH</sup> MAY, 2011**

The following were present in the meeting:

1. Shri P.K. Basu, Secretary (A&C) – Chairman.
2. Shri Ashish Bahuguna, Additional Secretary & FA.
3. Shri Anup Kumar Thakur, Additional Secretary, DAC
4. Dr. H.P. Singh, DDG (Hort.), ICAR, Pusa Campus, New Delhi.
5. Dr. Gorakh Singh, Horticulture Commissioner.
6. Shri Sanjeev Chopra, Joint Secretary, NHM.
7. Shri Pravesh Sharma, MD, SFAC, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, NCUI Building, August Kranti Marg, Hauz Khas, New Delhi.
8. Shri R.K. Vaish, Principal Resident Commissioner, Tripura, Tripura Bhawan, New Delhi.
9. Dr. Amit Sahai, Addl. Commissioner (Hort.), DAC Krishi Bhawan.
10. Dr. S.K. Bhatia, Addl. Commissioner (Hort.), DAC, Krishi Bhawan.
11. Shri K.Moses Chalai, Commissioner/Secretary Horticulture & Soil Conservation, Government of Manipur, Imphal, Manipur.
12. Shri V.C. Pharka, Pr. Secretary (Hort.), Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.
13. Shri Krish S. Iyenger, Joint Secretary, NCPAH, New Delhi.
14. Shri G.S. Pande, Additional Secretary (Hort.), Government of Uttarakhand.
15. Shri K.K. Singh, Principal Director (Hort.), Government of Sikkim.
16. Capt. Sanjay Gahlot, Director, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), August, Kranti Marg, Panchsheel Bhawan, New Delhi.
17. Shri Rohtash Singh, Director, Ministry of DoNER, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
18. Shri R. K. Boyal, General Manager, APEDA, New Delhi.
19. Dr. G.H. Shah, Director (Hort.), Government of J&K, Rajbagh, Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir.
20. Dr. M.S. Qasba, Director Horticulture, Planning & Marketing, Government of Jammu & Kashmir.
21. Shri Joseph Humtsoe, Director (Hort.), Department of Horticulture, Government of Nagaland.
22. Shri Samuel Rosanglura, Director (Hort.), Government of Mizoram, Aizwal, Mizoram.
23. Shri Gurdev Singh, Director (Hort.), Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.
24. Shri D. Bhuyan, Project Coordinator, SFAC, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, NCUI Building, 3, Siri Institutional Area, August Kranti Marg, Hauz Khas, New Delhi.
25. Shri C.R. Hazarika, Director (Hort.), Government of Assam, Khanpara, Guwahati, Assam.
26. Shri D.K. Rai, Director (Hort.), Department of Horticulture, Government of Sikkim.



27. Dr. Ratan Kumar Singh, Mission Director (HMNEH), Department of Horticulture & Soil Conservation, Government of Manipur, Imphal, Manipur.
28. Dr. R.B. Dympep, MD, Meghalaya SFAC, Motinagar, Shillong, Meghalaya.
29. Shri S.C. Dhiman, Project Director (Hort.), Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.
30. Dr. D.P. Sarkar, Joint Director of Horticulture, Department of Horticulture, Government of Tripura.
31. Dr. N. Benjong Aier, Mission Director (HMNEH), Department of Horticulture, Government of Nagaland.
32. Shri Kirti Kumar, Mission Director (HMNEH), Govt. of Assam.
33. Dr. Surbhi Pandey, Coordinator, HMNEH, Government of Uttarakhand, Circuit House Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
34. Shri H.C. Singh, Addl. Director (Hort.), Krishi Bhawan, Tadong, Gangtok, Sikkim-737102.
35. Shri N.C. Mistry, Addl. Managing Director, NHB, Plat No. 185, Sector-18, Gurgaon, Haryana.
36. Shri K. M. Brahma, Joint Director (Hort.), Government of Meghalaya.
37. Ms. Watienla Jamir, Joint Director of Horticulture, Directorate of Horticulture, Government of Nagaland, Kohima, Nagaland.
38. Shri Padam Subba, Dy. Director (Flori.) Horticulture, Krishi Bhawan, Tadong, Gangtok, Sikkim-737102.
39. Shri Mardo Ninu, HDO, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh.
40. Shri Rinchin Norbv, District Horticulture Officer, Government of Arunachal Pradesh.
41. Shri T. Hussain, ADA (Hort.), Government of Assam.
42. Shri R.K. Rathore, Chief Consultant (HMNEH), DAC, Krishi Bhawan.
43. Shri Bokar Riba, Nodal Officer (Hort.), Government of Arunachal Pradesh.
44. Shri Badrul Hasan, E.D., NCDC, 4, Siri Institutional Area, Hauz Khas, New Delhi.
45. Shri Naresh Modi, Sr. Project Officer, NCPAH, New Delhi.
46. Shri N.S. Bisht, Department of Horticulture, Government of Uttarakhand.
47. Shri F. Lalthlamuana, HDO, Directorate of Horticulture, Government of Mizoram, Aizwal, Mizoram.