

2010

-1-

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF STATE LEVEL SANCTIONING COMMITTEE
OF RASTRIYA KRISHI VIKASH YOJANA (RKVY) HELD ON 10TH
NOVEMBER, 2010 IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF CHIEF SECRETARY,
ASSAM, DISPUR.**

Present: As per Annexure - I

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Shri Naba Kumar Das, IAS, Chief Secretary, Assam. Shri R. T. Jindal, IAS, Principal Secretary and Agriculture Production Commissioner initiated the discussion on the agenda.

Itemwise deliberations were held as under:

Item No.1: Confirmation of the Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting dtd. 4.6.2010 as approved by the Chairman along with the corrigendum dated 29-06-2010 incorporating suggestions of Government of India was confirmed.

Item No.2: Action Taken Report

The Committee was apprised that report on action taken on the proceedings of the meeting held on 4.6.2010 was not called for as fund for the current year was yet to be released by the Finance Department. The committee advised the State Government to ensure timely release of funds to the Project Implementing Agencies.

**Item No.3: Variation in financial allocation under RKVY, 2010-11 by
Ministry of Agriculture & Planning Commission**

In view of the fact that a Supplementary Demand for Rs.15.68 crores was under consideration of the Assam Legislative Assembly in its current session, this item was not discussed as the issue has been settled.

Item No.4: Work Plan for 2010-11 under Revised Guidelines of Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Support to the State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms"

Work Plan for 2010-11 as approved by Ministry of Agriculture under Revised Guidelines of Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Support to the State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms" was discussed. The Committee approved the State Extension Work Plan (SEWP) including engagement of staff on contractual basis as proposed in SEWP and already approved by the Ministry of Agriculture. The committee was informed that the State share and the matter regarding engagement of staff on contractual basis was under consideration of the Finance Department. However, the scheme was being taken up for implementation partially.

Item No.5.1.A: Modification in Irrigation component

In view of non-supply of white Kerosene Oil in the State as informed by Food & Civil Supplies Department, it was decided that kerosene operated pump sets should not be distributed. Further, the Committee approved the inclusion of the Low Lift Pumps (LLPs) with electrical pumpsets of 2 to 3 HP in the scheme. Dr. Sadamate, representative of Planning Commission advised for inclusion of 8HP diesel operated pump sets. This was agreed to. The Committee advised the Department to include 8HP diesel operated pump sets in the next FOE as & when the same would be floated.

Item No.5.1.B: Approval of guidelines for STWs/LLPs

APC apprised that as per direction of the committee in its meeting held on 04-06-2010, the revised guidelines for executing the scheme of Shallow Tube Wells (STWs) and Low Lift Pumpsets (LLPs) under RKVY were drafted. The SLSC deliberated and approved the simplified guidelines for execution of Shallow Tube Well (STW) and Low Lift Pump(LLP) scheme for faster implementation of the scheme with a minor modification in the application form prescribed for the farmers. Verification of particulars of farmers should be done by ADO/AE instead of ADO/JE. The Committee also authorized the department to make minor changes in the guidelines, if any, required subsequently with the approval of Chief Secretary.

The Committee felt that the installation of Shallow Tube Wells / Low Lift Pumps would go a long way in helping the farmers and the state in agricultural production. The Committee noted that 86% of the farmers of the State were small and marginal farmers. Most of these farmers were unable to bear 50% beneficiary share. Assured irrigation has been the absolute necessity of the State to enable the farmers to take up Rabi / Boro cultivation in a much better way. The Committee also noted that the Chief Minister had desired to install one lakh Shallow tube Wells / Low Lift Pumps in the current financial year. Therefore, the Committee deliberated at length and decided to enhance the rate of subsidy from 50% to 60% on installation of Shallow Tube Wells / Low Lift Pumps as a special case. The physical targets would stand amended correspondingly.

Item No.5.2: Seed Certification Project

APC informed the Committee that it was extremely important for the State to ensure a regular mechanism to certify the quality seeds produced in the state. At present, out of about 6 lakh quintals of quality seeds produced within the state, only five percent could be certified due to lack of manpower and weak capital structure of Assam State Seed Certification Agency (ASSCA). Lack of adequate certification means that many local farmers were being deprived of good quality seeds. On the other hand, seed producing farmers were being deprived of the incremental benefit (i.e. at least Rs. 5/- per kg of seeds) while selling their seeds in the market. For the State as a whole, non-certification of seeds has adverse effect on agricultural production. Regular mechanism to certify the seeds would create a new market in the State in respect of locally produced and certified seeds. Chief Secretary agreed and supported the project.

APC was of the view that RKVY was meant for concentrating on the need of the State and filling up the gaps. He felt that RKVY was aimed at providing liberty to the States.

Moreover, the guidelines of RKVY (para 4(n)) permit one time support to the institutions that promote agriculture / horticulture. In this regard, it was highlighted that many of the institutions in the North East had very weak capital structure. Moreover, grant under RKVY would primarily be used for capital and labour, APC requested for liberal interpretation of the guidelines. Approval of this scheme would improve the capital structure of Assam State Seed Certification Agency (ASSCA) on permanent basis, and would ensure a regular mechanism for seed certification in the state.

APC felt that the process of certification was a long drawn one and the procedure for getting approval of all concerned to employ contractual manpower and establishing trust between farmer and the certifying agency would itself consume considerable part of the time and therefore a long time view will have to be taken in this regard.

The Committee after threadbare discussions approved the proposal and agreed to sanction the amount proposed as grant to boost the seed certification in the State.

Item No.5.3: Community Floors (PCC) for Threshing Crops

: The project for an amount of Rs.500.00 lakhs for the project of Community Floors (PCC) for threshing of crops was approved. The community floors be handed over to the farmer groups or Panchayats for proper upkeep and utilization.

Item No.5.4: Green Manure for Improvement of Soil.

The project of Green Manure for improvement of soil involving an amount of Rs.4.5 crores was approved. Seeds of Dhaincha / Sunhemp / other suitable crops would be distributed to farmers to improve physical condition of soil through high organic matter content.

Item No.5.5: Marketing Support to Farmers through Auto Vans

The project for marketing support to farmers through Auto-Vans involving an amount of Rs.6.00 Crores was approved at 50% subsidy to groups of farmers (ASGs). Physical target is 750 nos. However the actual physical target would depend on the actual cost of Auto Vans at the time of implementation. Chief Secretary opined that ACE vehicles of TATA and four wheelers would perhaps be more feasible. APC stated that the same would be examined. Hence, both three and four wheelers including small vehicles were permitted by the Committee.

Item No.5.6: Soil Testing and Soil Mapping

In view of the fact that NBSS has submitted their report on the work done by them in three districts under NFSM, it was decided to allot only a part of the project to AAU. However, the AAU be asked to co-ordinate with NBSS for completion of Soil Mapping of the entire state. The cost be paid out of the funds drawn for RKVY for the year 2009-10. Detail of the project and the financial requirement be worked out by APC. Dr. Sadamate advised that All India Land Use Survey could also be associated along with NBSS & AAU.

Item No.5.7: Reallocation of funds within Agriculture Sector

It was decided that the unspent amount of Rs.333.02 lakhs out of fund drawn during the year 2008-09 under RKVY be re-allocated as under along with redistribution of funds of RKVY for Agriculture sector.

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of item/scheme	Allocation as per earlier Minutes	Revised allocation	Savings	Additional fund required
1	Irrigation(STW)	140.00	132.00	8.00	-
2(A)	Infrastructure development of office, workshop, etc.	2.26	1.09	1.17	-
2(B)	Installation of Power line at Seed Farm	0.24	0.24	-	-
2(C)	Irrigation at Departmental Farm	0.30	0.30	-	-
3	Soil Testing Lab.	1.50	1.50	-	-
4	Fertiliser Working Capital	4.00	-	4.00	-
5	Soil Health Management	3.00	3.00	-	-
6	A. Seed Certification Project	10.00	14.00 *	-	4.00 *
	B. Assam Seed Corporation	3.00	3.00	-	
	C. Infrastructure Development of Kokilabari Farm	2.00	1.00	1.00	-
7	Publicity / Kishan Mela / Krishak Samaroh	2.00	-	2.00	-
8	Administrative Expenditure	1.70	1.70	-	-
9	Green Manuring for improvement of soil	-	4.50	-	4.50
10	Marketing support to farmers through Auto-Van	-	6.00	-	6.00
11	Community Floor (PCC) for threshing of crop	-	5.00 (3.33 from 08. Savings)	-	5.00 ** (3.33+1.17)
12	Reallocation of fund for 2008-09	3.33	-	3.33 **	-
	Grand Total:			19.50	19.50

* This is subject to advice of Ministry of Agriculture as decided under item no. 5.2

** The unutilized fund of Rs. 3.33 Crores of 2008-09 will be utilized for construction of Community Floors as part of an amount of Rs. 5 Crores for Sl.11 above.

The committee advised the department to hold a separate meeting for matter like Kisan Mela / Publicity, etc. with Dr. Sadamate, VC of AAU and Deputy Director General, Extension, ICAR or their representatives.

Item No.6: Strategic Plan for Extending Green Revolution in Assam.

APC informed that the Strategic Plan was prepared and sent to Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry communicated its approval for allocation of Rs. 35 crores recently for implementation of the scheme in the current financial year. Accordingly, the department proposed the two instant schemes for technology showcasing / demonstrative effect to motivate the farmers to go for cultivation of hybrid seeds. He said it was the need of the hour that hybrid seeds are encouraged in State as hybrids have potential of higher productivity. For the purpose of scientific cultivation of hybrid rice, only non - NFSM - Rice districts have been proposed. Further, the scheme of scientific cultivation of hybrid maize was proposed keeping in view the tremendous potential of this crop in Assam. APC informed that ICAR had also recommended the same.

APC informed that as per proposals some critical inputs would be provided by the State Government as subsidy component for cultivation of hybrids and remaining inputs like irrigation, bamboo fencing (fencing is required as cattle are left free for grazing in winter in Assam), tractorisation / land preparation, labour component, cost of marketing, etc. will be arranged by the farmers on their own. Therefore, the subsidy would approximately be less than 50% on the whole.

Ms. Saha pointed out that subsidy on hybrid seeds should be as per norms of NFSM. APC informed that the seeds being very costly (Arize-6444 costs Rs. 290/- per kg), the subsidy prescribed under NFSM (Rs. 20 per kg) might not serve any purpose as farmers will not be able to bear substantial cost on their own. It was discussed and agreed upon that assistance to farmers in terms of seed mini kits which are given free of cost for demonstration purpose, can also be explored.

Ms. Saha suggested to go for HYV's instead of Hybrid seeds if the beneficiaries were not available as per NFSM norms. APC informed that it was of no use to go for HYV's as already about 60% of the area of state is under HYV's and there was no necessity of having any further demonstrative effect of HYV's.

Ms. Saha informed that the Strategic Plan needed to be approved by the Expert Committee constituted by DAC for this purpose and the interventions should be finalized in consultation with DAC.

The Committee deliberated and approved the proposal in principle and decided that the Agriculture Department would immediately depute personnel to DAC so that the Strategic Plan and the interventions there under could be worked out. The Chief Secretary was authorized to take a final decision on the matter.

Item No.7: A Dedicated Cell for Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation of RKVY.

The proposal for Dedicated Cell for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation of RKVY by engagement of temporary staff on annual contractual basis through ASFAC or ARIASP was approved.

Item No.8: Intra-sector re-allocation for Agricultural Research

The proposal for Intra-Sector re-allocation for Agricultural Research as submitted by AAU was approved for a project of technology showcasing at village level through Information Kiosks by reallocating Rs.50 lakhs from the scheme of Integrated farming. The University was advised to involve KVKs and ATMAS of the entire State in the project. For contractual engagement of manpower, if any, prior concurrence of Finance Department of the State Government be taken.

Item No.9: Horticulture Projects : Reallocation of Funds

The Committee decided to drop Pilot Project for high density Planting Technique and Empowerment of Farm women and re-allocate the savings of Rs. 91.82 lakhs to the projects of Micronutrients & Green House Scheme in the ratio of 50:50 approximately as under:

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Cost Proposed Earlier (Rs. in lakhs)	Cost Approved Now (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Demonstration on High Tech Production Technology		
	A) Pilot Project for High Density Planting Technique	50.00	Nil
	B) Green House for Cultivation of Vegetables and Flowers	763.75	810.0
	C) Use of Micronutrients	375.00	420.57
	D) Scientific Post Harvest Handling	30.00	30.00
2.	Empowerment of Women	41.82	Nil

As regards subsidy on Green House Scheme, it was decided to follow TMNE / NHM norms if the same permitted subsidy is more than 50%. Otherwise subsidy at 50% as approved earlier would apply.

-9-

Item No.10: Modifications proposed in Animal Husbandry & Vety. Projects**MATERIALS FOR INCLUSION IN THE MINUTES OF SLSC MEETING HELD ON 10/11/10.****Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Department:**

The Commissioner & Secretary, A.H. & Veterinary Department explained about the difficulties faced by the Department during implementation of certain activities under RKVY 08-09, 09-10 & 10-11. He also briefed about the new activities proposed for approval within the financial provision.

The committee after detailed discussion decided to approve the modified proposals in the following manner –

1. Modification under RKVY 08-09:

The committee observed that there is a savings/unutilized fund of Rs.1302.51 (L) lying with the Department under RKVY 08-09 under the following sub-components –

Sl. No.	Activities approved earlier	Savings/Unutilized Fund (Rs. In lakhs)
1.	Setting up of A.I.C. in Departmental Institutions	Rs. 131.39
2.	Repairing of Hospital/Dispensary Complexes	Rs. 1044.00
3.	Setting up of Gopal Mitra Centers	Rs. 43.00
4.	Revival of Goat Breeding Farm at Rani	Rs. 50.00
5.	Distribution of Fodder Seed	Rs. 6.62
6.	Distribution of Chaff Cutter	Rs. 27.50
Total		Rs. 1302.51

The committee approved the following proposed activities within the Savings/Unutilized fund of Rs. 1302.51 (L) -

Sl. No.	Approved modified activities	Financial involvement (Rs. In lakhs)
1.	Procurement of logistics for expanding A.I. activities	Rs. 142.00
2.	Repairing of 10 nos. of Frozen Semen Banks at an average cost of Rs. 5.00 (L) each	Rs. 50.00
3.	Construction of 17 nos. of new Dispensary buildings at an average cost of Rs. 64.28 (L) each	Rs. 1110.51
Total		Rs. 1302.51

2. Modification under RKVY 09-10:

Under RKVY 09-10, there is a savings/unutilized fund of Rs. 64.08 (L) earmarked for the following sub-components -

Sl. No.	Activities approved earlier	Savings/Unutilized Fund (Rs. In lakhs)
1.	Remuneration of Pvt. A.I. workers (GM)	Rs. 18.00
2.	Hiring of vehicle for delivery of Liquid Nitrogen and recurring inputs of A.I.	Rs. 46.08
Total		Rs. 64.08

The committee decided to approve the following activities within the savings/unutilized fund of Rs. 64.08 (L) –

Sl. No.	Approved modified activities	Financial involvement (Rs. In lakhs)
1.	Out-sourcing of A.I. activities	Rs. 60.00
2.	Maintenance including fuel cost of Liquid Nitrogen carrying pickup vans.	Rs. 4.08
Total		Rs. 64.08

3. Modification under RKVY 10-11:

In the last SLSC meeting held on 4th June, 2010, an amount of Rs.594.00 (L) was approved for Fodder Development under RKVY 10-11 with the following sub-components –

Sl. No.	Activities approved earlier	Savings/Unutilized Fund (Rs. In lakhs)
1.	Boundary Fencing at Departmental Fodder Farms	Rs. 153.92
2.	Azolla Cultivation in Farmers Field	Rs. 27.68
3.	Fodder Block making Unit	Rs. 130.00
4.	Fodder Cultivation in Farmers' Field	Rs. 130.00
5.	Fodder Cultivation in Departmental Institutions	Rs. 152.40
Total		Rs. 594.00

The Commissioner & Secretary submitted that, with modified activities as under more and more farmers would be involved and scope for Fodder Production will be much higher. The Committee appreciated the initiative of the Department and approved as proposed and as under:

Sl. No.	Approved modified activities	Financial involvement (Rs. In lakhs)
1.	Fodder Cultivation in Farmers' Field	Rs. 550.00
2.	Fodder Cultivation in Departmental Institutions	Rs.44.00
Total		Rs. 594.00

The breakup of modified sub-components under RKVY 10-11 are as follows –

Breakup for Fodder cultivation in Farmers' Field:

Cost of 13 kgs of Fodder Seed @ Rs.67/- per kg. -----	Rs. 871.00
Cost of 12 kgs of Urea @ Rs.6.50/- per kg -----	Rs. 78.00
Cost of 2 kgs of Zinc @ Rs. 60/- per kg -----	Rs. 120.00
Miscellaneous -----	Rs. 31.00

Total ----- Rs. 1100

All other costs like preparation of land, fencing, irrigation, etc. will be borne by the farmer himself.

Total = Rs.1100.00 X 50,000 units = Rs.550.00 (L)

Breakup for Fodder cultivation in Departmental Institutions:

Cost of 13 kgs of Fodder Seed @ Rs.67/- per kg -----	Rs .871.00
Cost of 12 kgs of Urea @ Rs.6.50/- per kg -----	Rs. 78.00
Cost of 2 kgs of Zinc @ Rs. 60/- per kg -----	Rs.120.00
Labour Cost -----	Rs.1500.00
Miscellaneous -----	Rs. 31.00
Total -----	Rs. 2600.00

Total = Rs.2600.00 X 1692 units = Rs.43.99 (L)

Say = Rs. 44.00 (L)

However, the actual physical target will depend upon the actual rates of inputs at the time of implementation.

Item No.11: Proposal of Fishery Department seeking additional fund and utilization of savings of 2008-09 & 2009-10 for some new components.

Proposal of Fisheries Deptt. Seeking utilization of savings of 2008-09 & 2009-10 for some new components as per agenda note was agreed to. The revised allocation as per new proposal is annexed here as Annexure II.

Item No: 12. Any other item with the permission of the Chair.

A) APC informed that Dr. Tapan Dutta, Adviser to the Chief Minister, Assam has proposed inclusion of a scheme for Dug Wells in the irrigation project of Agriculture. The Adviser has highlighted the likely benefit of the dug wells. The Committee perused the note sent by the Adviser and the detail of the scheme prepared by the department. Ms. Saha told that the scheme could be considered provided that the rate of subsidy did not exceed the rate prescribed under CSS. With this observation the Department was advised to consider some units of dug wells.

Before conclusion of the meeting, Dr. Sadamate pointed out that there were huge number of vacancies in the Department. Chief Secretary informed that the APC has been trying to resolve the problem by expediting disposal of court cases.

B) To facilitate better accounting of expenditure under RKVY, SLSC decided that the projects approved in the year 2009-10 and 2010-11 will be deemed as projects for two years span as of 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Meeting ended with vote of thanks from the chair.

Sd/-

(N. K. Das)

Chief Secretary to the Govt. Of Assam

Memo No. AGA.381/2008/Pt/1/326 - 4

Dated Dispur, the 25th November, 2010.

Copy to : All concerned:

Director, Agriculture, Assam

By order etc.



Secretary to the Government of Assam
Agriculture Department

NS
25/11/10

Annexure-1**MEMBERS / OFFICERS PRESENT**

1. Shri N.K. Das, IAS, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam
2. Shri R.T. Jindal, IAS, APC & Principal Secretary, Agriculture, etc. Deptt, Govt. of Assam
3. Shri V.V. Sadamate, Advisor(Agriculture), Planning Commission of India
4. Shri Niraj Verma, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary, Agriculture, Govt.of Assam
5. Smti. Reena Saha, Director (RKVY), D.A.C
6. Shri Atul Chaturvedi, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary, A.H. & Vety. Deptt., Govt.of Assam
7. Shri P. K. Borthakur, IAS, Commissioner & Secy., Fisheries, Govt. of Assam
8. Shri N.N. Sarmah, Director of Research, A.A.U, Jorhat
9. Shri S. Jagannathan, IAS, Secretary, P&D Deptt., Govt. of Assam
10. Smti. N.A. Hazarika, IAS, Secretary, Agriculture, Govt. of Assam
11. Shri A. Deori, Director, Agriculture, Assam
12. Shri M.K. Gogoi, Chief Engineer, Agriculture, Assam
13. Shri B.P. Kakati, Director, Dairy Development, Assam
14. Shri C.R. Hazarika, Director, Horticulture, Assam
15. Shri I. Hoque, Director, Fisheries, Assam
16. Shri Z.M. Hoque, Director (i/c) Vety., Assam
17. Shri D.D. Deka, Deputy Director, Dairy Development, Assam
18. Shri P.K. Goswami, Deputy Secretary, W.R.Deptt., Govt. of Assam
19. Shri A.C. Talukdar, Deputy Secretary, Finance(EC-I), Govt. of Assam
20. Shri B.D. Baruah, SRO, P&D Deptt. Assam
21. Shri R. Sarmah, Joint Director, Agriculture, Assam
22. Dr. J.P. Kalita, A.H & Vety. Deptt., Assam
23. Dr. M.K. Das, Addl. Director(Vety.), Assam
24. Shri K. Pathak, Sr.Scientist, AAU, Jorhat, Assam
25. Shri N. Kakati, Deputy Secretary, Irrigation, Govt. of Assam

Statement showing fund as savings under RKVY 2008-09

Particulars / items	Reasons for savings	Savings (Rs. in lakh)
Prophylactic Measures	<i>Savings due to lower rate of items offered by quotations than the project unit cost.</i>	0.05
Training Centre devt.		0.98
Farm devt.		1.14
Formulated Fish feed		2.59
Lime		12.93
Total		17.69

Statement showing fund as savings due to non execution of component under RKVY 2009-10

Particulars / items	Reasons for savings	Savings (Rs. in lakh)
Aerator (25 nos)	<i>10 aerators were procured under RKVY, 2008-09 on experimental basis..More time is required for its introduction at farmers level.</i>	12.50
Portable Fish seed Hatchery	<i>CIFA (ICAR), Bhubneswar was contacted to supply the portable hatcheries. They conveyed their inability.</i>	10.50
Total		23.00
Grand Total savings (A+B)		40.69

Proposal to utilise the savings fund shown above at SI (C)

Particulars / items (originally not taken up)	Amount (Rs. in lakh)	
Additional fund for Prawn Hatchery like Grill, Air blower shed etc. at Guwahati	4.80	
Additional fund for Prawn Hatchery like Grill, Air blower shed, AT shed for mixing tank, electrification, 3 phased line, approached road etc. at Cachar	9.00	
Additional fund for Prawn Hatchery like Grill, Air blower shed, AT shed for mixing tank, electrification, 3 phased line, approached road etc. at Dhubri	9.21	
Water spill over structure in Kolong river in Nagaon district for aquaculture.	10.73	
Maintanance of prawn hatchery.	1.00	
Furniture for prawn hatchery & State Laboratory at Guwahati.	2.00	
Infrastructure development at H.Q	2.50	
Officers exposure visit out side the state.	1.45	
Total		40.69