



**STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
(2020-2021)**

SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, COOPERATION AND FARMERS WELFARE)**

'DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (2020-21)'

**{Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/
Recommendations contained in the Ninth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of
the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2019-20)}**

NINETEENTH REPORT



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI**

FEBRUARY 2021/MAGHA, 1942 (Saka)

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(2020-2021)**

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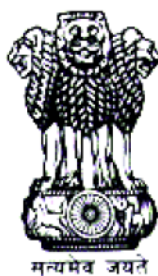
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**{Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/
Recommendations contained in the Ninth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of
the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2019-20)}**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 11.02.2021

Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 11.02.2021



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

FEBRUARY 2021/MAGHA, 1942 (Saka)

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (2019-20)

Shri Parvatagouda Chandanagouda Gaddigoudar- Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Afzal Ansari
3. Shri Horen Sing Bey
4. Shri Devendra Singh 'Bhole'
5. Shri A. Ganeshamurthi
6. Shri Kanakmal Katara
7. Shri Abu Taher Khan
8. Shri Bhagwanth Khuba
9. Dr. Amol Ramsing Kolhe
10. Shri Mohan Mandavi
11. Shri Devji Mansingram Patel
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13. Shri Bheemrao Baswanthrao Patil
14. Smt. Navneet Ravi Rana
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16. Shri Pocha Brahmananda Reddy
17. Shri Mohammad Sadique
18. Shri Virendra Singh
19. Shri V.K. Sreekandan
20. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav
21. Shri Ram Kripal Yadav

RAJYA SABHA

22. Shri Partap Singh Bajwa
23. Sardar Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa
- #24. Shri Harivansh
25. Shri Narayan Rane
26. Shri Kailash Soni
27. Shri Vaiko
28. Shri R. Vaithilingam
29. Smt. Chhaya Verma
30. Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav
31. Shri Harnath Singh Yadav

Nominated to this Committee w.e.f. 22.07.2020 vide CB-1 Note dated 24.07.2020.

COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (2020-21)

Shri Parvatagouda Chandanagouda Gaddigoudar- Chairperson

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11. Smt. Shardaben Anilbhai Patel
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14. Shri Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu
15. Shri Vinayak Bhaurao Raut
16. Shri Pocha Brahmananda Reddy
17. Shri Mohammad Sadique
18. Shri Virendra Singh
19. Shri V.K. Sreekandan
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26. Shri Vaiko
27. Shri R. Vaithilingam
28. Smt. Chhaya Verma
- @29. Shri B.L. Verma
30. Shri Harnath Singh Yadav
- *31. VACANT

* *vice* Dr. Chandrapal Singh Yadav ceased to be a Member of the Committee on his retirement from Rajya Sabha w.e.f 25.11.2020 vide CB-I Note dated 06.10.2020.

@*vice* Shri B.L. Verma, MP Rajya Sabha has been nominated to the Committee as Member w.e.f 23.12.2020 vide Bulletin Part-II No. 1835 dated 24.12.2020

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri Shiv Kumar - Joint Secretary
2. Ms. Juby Amar - Director
3. Shri Prem Ranjan - Deputy Secretary

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Agriculture (2020-21), having been authorized by the Committee to submit the Report on their behalf, present this Nineteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Ninth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2019-20) on 'Demands for Grants (2020-21)' pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare).

2. The Ninth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2019-20) on 'Demands for Grants (2020-21)' pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare) was presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 03 March, 2020. The Action Taken Notes on the Report were received on 30.07.2020

3. The Report was considered and adopted by the Committee at their Sitting held on 09.02.2021.

4. An Analysis of the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Ninth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in **Appendix**.

NEW DELHI;
10 February, 2021
21 Magha, 1942(Saka)

P.C. GADDIGUDAR
Chairperson,
Standing Committee on Agriculture

CHAPTER - I

R E P O R T

This Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture deals with the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Ninth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2019-2020) on "Demands for Grants (2020-21)" pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare) which was presented to Lok Sabha and laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 03.03.2020.

1.2 The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare) has furnished Action Taken Replies in respect of all the 17 Observations/Recommendations contained in the Report. These Replies have been categorized as under:

(i) Observations/Recommendations that have been accepted by the Government:

Recommendation Nos. 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17 **Total - 10**
Chapter- II

(ii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's reply:

Recommendation No. 7 and 16 **Total - 02**
Chapter- III

(iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which Action Taken Replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee:

Recommendation Nos. 11 **Total- 01**
Chapter- IV

(iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited:

Recommendation Nos. 3,4,8 and 10 **Total- 04**
Chapter- V

1.3 The Committee trust that utmost importance would be given to implementation of the Observations / Recommendations accepted by the Government. In cases where it is not possible for the Department to implement the Recommendations in letter and spirit for any reason, the matter should be reported to the Committee with reasons for non-implementation. The Committee desire that further Action Taken Notes on the Observations / Recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final Action Taken Replies to the recommendations contained in Chapter-V of this Report be furnished to them at an early date.

1.4 The Committee will now deal with the Action Taken by the Government on some of the Recommendations in the succeeding paragraphs.

**A. FUNDS SURRENDERED
RECOMMENDATION (SERIAL NO.2)**

1.5 The Committee had observed/ recommended:-

"The Committee note that the Department has surrendered an amount of Rs. 21044.42 crore and Rs. 28581.26 crore (anticipated) during 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively. The Committee were informed that as per instructions of the Government, unutilized funds have to be surrendered to Ministry of Finance within the same financial year. The Committee were further informed that less utilization of funds is due to less requirement of funds in NER or proposals are received late or proposals not approved by State Level Monitoring Committees, or inadequate proposals and non submission of proposals by NABARD, States not releasing 40% of States share and non-submission of Utilization Certificates. The Committee were assured by the Secretary, DAC &FW that they are focussing on Schemes with maximum surrender of funds such as RKVY, Minor Irrigations and Price support Scheme. They are holding Video Conferencing with State Government concerned for enhancing the utilization of funds. The Committee are constrained to note that such large amount of funds surrendered would adversely affect the implementation of the Schemes. The Committee are of the considered view that there should be maximum utilization of funds available under various Schemes in order to benefit farmers of the Country. The

Committee recommend that the Department should vigorously pursue the matter with the State Governments and other concerned Organizations for expediting the proposals and other related issues to be resolved promptly. The Committee also recommend that the pace of expenditure and flow of funds under the various schemes should be monitored at regular intervals so as to avoid such major surrender of funds. The Committee, desire the Department to identify the factors and rules in operational guidelines which hinder or restrict the utilization of funds and take necessary steps accordingly to improve the utilization of funds. The Committee would like to be apprised about steps taken in this direction within three months of presentation of this Report."

1.6 In its Action Taken Reply, the Department has stated:-

"In line with the recommendations of the Committee, the Department is taking several steps for maximizing the utilization of funds available under various schemes. It is further submitted that Agriculture being State subject, it is for the State to gear up the utilization. However, the Govt. is making regular and vigorous interactions with the States through more number of video conferences, constant follow up by the concerned Divisional Heads with the State Govts. and through Govt. letters so that maximum and also proper utilization of funds takes place.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Department has released Rs 35435.38 crore under various schemes to benefit the farmers during first quarter of FY 2020-21."

1.7 Taking note of the reasons for surrender of funds allocated under various Schemes in view of less utilization due to - less requirement of funds in NER or proposals are received late or proposals not approved by State Level Monitoring Committees, or inadequate proposals and non-submission of proposals by NABARD, States not releasing 40% of States share and non-submission of Utilization Certificates, the Committee had recommended the Department to vigorously pursue with the State Governments and other concerned Organizations for expediting the proposals and resolving the other related issues

promptly and to monitor at regular intervals the pace of expenditure and flow of funds under the various Schemes so as to avoid major surrender of funds. The Committee had also desired the Department to identify the factors and Rules/Stipulations in Operational Guidelines which hinder or restrict the utilization of funds and take necessary steps accordingly to improve the utilization of funds. The Department in its Action Taken Replies has submitted that Agriculture being State Subject, it is for the States to gear up the utilization. However, the Department is taking several steps such as making regular and vigorous interactions with the states through more number of video conferences, constant follow up by the concerned Divisional Heads with the State Governments and through Government letters for maximizing the proper utilization of funds available under various Schemes. While appreciating the efforts made by the Department, the Committee note that the Department's reply is silent on identification of factors and Rules/Stipulations in Operational Guidelines which hinder or restrict the utilization of funds and take necessary steps accordingly to improve the utilization of funds as recommended by the Committee.

The Committee, therefore, reiterate their earlier recommendation and desire the Department to take necessary action in the matter so as to provide maximum benefit to the farmers of the Country under various Schemes.

**B. NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY MISSION
RECOMMENDATION (SERIAL NO. 11)**

1.8 The Committee had observed/ recommended:-

"The Committee note that National Food Security Mission which was launched in the year 2007-08 to increase the production of rice, wheat and pulses in the Country through area expansion and productivity enhancement; restoring soil fertility and productivity; creating employment opportunities and enhancing the farm level economy is being implemented beyond the 12th Plan (2017-18 to 2019-20) with new targets to achieve 13 million tonnes of additional foodgrains production comprising of rice- 5 million tonnes, wheat- 3 million tonnes, pulses-3 million tonnes and nutri-cum-coarse cereals- 2 million tonnes by 2019-20 with a

new objective to enhance Post-harvest value addition at farm gate for better price realization to farmers through efficient market linkages. The Committee were informed that basic strategy of the Mission is to promote and extend improved technologies of package of practices of crops through various types of demonstrations (FLDs/Cluster), distribution of HYV seeds, production of seeds, distribution of micro-nutrients/ soil ameliorants/integrated nutrient management/integrated pest management, improved resource management tools/ machineries /implements, efficient water application devices along with capacity building of farmers and local initiatives; award for best performing districts etc.

The Committee also note that NFSM is being implemented in identified Districts of 29 States of the country. NFSM-Rice is implemented in 194 Districts of 25 States, NFSM Wheat in 126 districts of 11 States, NFSM- Pulses in 638 Districts of all 29 States, NFSM-Coarse Cereals in 269 Districts of 27 States except Goa and Kerala. From the year 2018-19, NFSM-Nutri-Cereals is being implemented in 202 Districts of 14 States (Jowar in 88 Districts of 10 States, Bajra in 88 Districts of 9 States, Ragi in 44 Districts of 8 States and other Millets in 43 Districts of 7 States). Under NFSM-Coarse Cereals Maize is being implemented in 237 Districts of 27 States and barley in 39 districts of 4 States of the country. The North Eastern States, Himachal Pradesh, UT of Jammu & Kashmir have been given flexibility to implement the programme on nutri-cereals. The programme is being implemented on 60:40 sharing basis between Gol and general states and 90:10 sharing basis for North Eastern States and 3 Himalayan States from 2015-16.

The Committee observe that the Department was able to achieve the production of 2850.13 lakh tonnes as against the State-wise target of 2745.40 lakh tonnes under the Scheme during 2017-18, whereas, there was production of 2849.52 lakh tonnes as against the target of 2902.55 lakh tonnes during 2018-19. The Committee further note that there is demand of continuing this Scheme beyond 2019-20 and State Governments have been requesting this Ministry for continuation of NFSM Programme at various forums like meetings, workshops, during monitoring of the Programme by Gol officials in order to sustain the food &

nutritional security and to meet the demand of foodgrains and commercial crops for increasing population of the Country. Even ICAR has also supported the Programme for its continuation and implementation of this programme will not only meet the demand of foodgrains but also enhance the productivity of various crops through dissemination of the latest crop production & protection technologies at farmers' field. The Committee are of view that National Food Security Mission has been able to ensure food security of the Country to a large extent by enhancing the food grain production and with added emphasis on nutricereals, it will also help to diversify food basket with nutritional security. The Committee recommend the Government to continue this Scheme in coming years so that farmers may be provided necessary support to enhance food grain production in the Country."

1.9 In its Action Taken Reply, the Department has stated:-

"The National Food Security Mission (NFSM) is continued during 2020-21 and is being implemented in all the 28 States and Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The programme is aimed at sustainable production of foodgrain production to enhance the farm level economy with added emphasis on pulses, nutri-cum-coarse cereals. Various interventions i.e. cluster demonstrations on improved package of practices, demonstrations on cropping system, Seed distribution of HYVs, farm machineries/ resource conservations machineries/ tools, efficient water applications tools, plant protection measures, nutrient management/ soil ameliorants, cropping system based trainings to the farmers etc are promoted to support the farmers to enhance production and productivity of foodgrain crops."

1.10 Realizing the role played by National Food Security Mission (NFSM) in ensuring food and nutritional security of the Country, the Committee had recommended for continuation of this Scheme in coming years. The Department in its Action Taken Replies has stated that the National Food Security Mission is continued during 2020-21. The Department has further stated about the aim of the

Programme and various interventions undertaken to support the farmers to enhance production and productivity of foodgrain crops.

The Committee note that the Department's reply is silent on continuation of the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) beyond the current year. Considering the fact that various State Governments had requested the Ministry for continuation of this Mission to meet the demand of food grains and commercial crops and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) also supported it, the Committee reiterate their earlier recommendation for continuation of this Scheme in coming years in order to not only sustain food and nutritional security of the Country but also to enhance the productivity of various crops through dissemination of the latest crop production and protection technologies at the farmers' field level.

**C. TACKLING THE CHALLENGE OF LOCUST ATTACK IN BORDER DISTRICTS
RECOMMENDATION (SERIAL NO. 17)**

1.11 The Committee had observed/ recommended:-

"The Committee note that incident of Locust incursion was reported in border Districts of Rajasthan and Gujarat during 2019. The Committee were informed that Locust Warning Organization (LWO), Jodhpur, Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage under Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare in coordination with District Authorities, State Government officials, BSF personals and farmers were able to control the locust incursion. The Committee note that "Locust Warning Organization (LWO)", which is responsible to monitor and control the locust situation in Scheduled Desert Area (SDA) of Rajasthan and Gujarat by way of survey and surveillance Locust Control and Research (LC&R), is a Subcomponent of Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India (SMPMA) Scheme. The Committee are of the view that locust incursion in border Districts of Rajasthan and Gujarat has potential to destroy fully grown and developed crops in these areas on a large scale and therefore, there is need of well drafted Action Plan to contain their impact. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to be proactive and

prepare an Advance Action plan in consultation with all stake holders and National and International Experts to control Locust incursion."

1.12 In its Action Taken Reply, the Department has stated:-

"1.1 Locust is a trans-boundary migratory pest. It has the ability to fly hundreds of kilometres collectively in swarms. Found in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, they can inhabit some sixty countries and can cover one-fifth of Earth's land surface. Desert locust plagues can threaten the economic livelihood by destroying crops. Swarms of locusts come to India from spring breeding areas of Africa, Middle East and South West Asia during the monsoon season for summer breeding in Scheduled Desert Area of Rajasthan and Gujarat.

1.2 Locust Warning Organization (LWO) and ten Locust Circle Offices (LCOs) of Government of India are situated in Rajasthan (Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Phalodi, Barmer, Jalore, Churu, Nagaur, Suratgarh) and Gujarat (Palanpur and Bhuj), who primarily monitor, survey and control Desert Locust in two lakh square kilometre Scheduled Desert Area of Rajasthan and Gujarat in coordination with the State Governments. Further the LWO and LCOs are also involved in capacity building activities of State Government officials and farmers with regard to locust control. The State Governments through the District Administration and the State Agriculture Department undertake locust control activities in the cropped area of the State.

1.3 In 2019-20, after a gap of 26 years, India witnessed a locust attack of a large magnitude in the states of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Punjab. Starting from 22nd May, 2019 till 17th February 2020, a total of 4,03,488 hectare area was treated and locust was controlled by Locust Circle Offices in coordination with the District Administration and State Agriculture Department of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Punjab. Along with this, the State Agriculture Department of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Punjab undertook Locust control operations in cropped areas of the State. During 2019-20, control operations were done in 3,93,933 hectare area of eleven districts of Rajasthan; 9,505 hectare area in two districts of Gujarat and 50 hectare area in one district of Punjab. Senior Locust Forecasting Officer of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Mr. Keith Cressman, who visited India

on 16-17 January, 2020 appreciated the efforts of India in Locust control. In its report he has mentioned that *“the efforts undertaken by the LWO in 2019, supplemented by important contributions from other collaborators in the affected districts such as farmers and firefighters as well as District Collectors, were successful in containing the outbreak. Clearly if this had not been the case, tremendous crop damage would have occurred in Rajasthan that would have had significant impacts on food security and livelihoods in western India and beyond.”*

1.4 As per the final Memorandum given by the State Government of Rajasthan to the inter-ministerial team, a total area of 1,75,974.33 hectares of 8 districts of the state was affected by locust attack during 2019-20. It has also been reported by the State Government of Rajasthan that the State Government disbursed Rs. 106.21 crore as agricultural input subsidy to 64,087 farmers from the State Disaster Response Fund and Rs. 9.19 crore spent on infrastructure of locust control.

1.5 On 23rd May, 2020, the Disaster Management Division, Government of India has approved and released assistance of Rs. 68.65 crore from National Disaster Response Fund to the State of Rajasthan for locust attack during 2019-20.

1.6 The State Government of Gujarat has reported that crop loss was observed in a total area of 19,313 hectares of 2 districts of the State due to locust attack during the year 2019-20. The State Government of Gujarat disbursed Rs 23.91 crore as agricultural input subsidy from the State Disaster Response Fund during 2019-20.

2 Steps taken to deal with the menace

Anticipating this scenario various measures have been undertaken to strengthen the preparedness and control capabilities of States and LCOs -

•Preparedness-

Review meetings were organised at different levels (Hon'ble Agriculture Minister, Cabinet Secretary, Secretary-DAC&FW, Joint Secretary-PP), VCs were

organised for different State Governments and locust control preparedness is being reviewed.

Honourable Agriculture Minister reviewed the locust control preparedness and situation through meetings and VCs on 6th May, 13th May and 16th June, 2020 and detailed instructions were given for creating awareness among State Officials and farmers, effective survey & control of locust in the affected areas in coordination with the States and exploring the aerial spray capabilities.

Secretary, DAC&FW reviewed the status of Desert Locust Control on 25th February, 5th May, 22nd May, 29th May and 14th July, 2020 through meetings and VCs with Principal Secretaries (Agriculture) and District Magistrates of Locust affected States. Representatives of Ministry of External Affairs and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) also attended two meetings. In these meetings and VCs, States were appraised of the Locust situation and the forecast issued by FAO, strategy was chalked out for locust control, preparedness was reviewed to ensure necessary coordination. States were also oriented about the locust and steps to be taken for Locust control in case of incursion.

On 22nd April 2020, letters were also written by Special Secretary (Plant Protection) to the State governments of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana and Punjab to make necessary preparation for effective control of locusts. On 18th May 2020 Joint Secretary (Plant Protection) organized a VC with the District Magistrates and District Agricultural Officers of Madhya Pradesh on Locust situation and preparedness.

Advisories were issued by the Plant Protection Advisor to different States on 17th April, 29th May and 12th June, 2020 regarding the potential attack and preparation of locusts, monitoring and surveillance of locust in non-scheduled desert especially near river basins for any possible breeding of desert locust. Contingency plan, locust awareness literature, details of approved pesticides, Standard Operating Procedures for Survey & control, control room, communication plan, aerial spray; training material, awareness videos were shared with all stakeholder States. Fortnightly bulletin on status of locusts and

latest information released by the FAO, are being sent to the State Agricultural Departments regularly.

During March-April, 2020, letters were issued from Secretary DAC&FW to the Foreign Secretary, MEA and proposed to provide supply of pesticides to Iran on a bilateral basis. Iran has accepted the Indian Government's offer of supply of 25000 litres of pesticides and the supply has been made by HIL on 8th June 2020. The High Commissioner of India in Kenya and the Ambassador of India to Ethiopia were requested for regular feedback about locust status.

On 21st May, 2020 Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India wrote a letter to Pakistan High Commissioner in Delhi, proposing coordinated locust control operations along the India-Pakistan border. In addition, it also proposed to supply pesticides (Malathion 96% ULV) to Pakistan for locust control.

A High Level virtual meeting on Desert Locust in South-West Asian countries was held on 11 March 2020, at the office of the FAO, India. Representatives of four member countries (Afghanistan, India, Iran and Pakistan) and the Plant Protection Division of FAO, Rome participated in the meeting. MoS Sh. Kailash Choudhury and Secretary DAC&FW, also attended the meeting. Subsequently, 17 virtual meetings of technical officers of member countries have been held so far via skype for sharing of strategic information on actual status, movement and control of locust in member countries of South West Asian Commission on Locust control.

Training programmes and mock drill operations were conducted by Locust Circle Offices for the State Extension Officers of Rajasthan and Gujarat. In addition, Central Integrated Pest Management Centres also conducted awareness programmes in the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Chhattisgarh. Control rooms are established in Locust Warning Organization, Locust Circle Offices and District Headquarters by States and locust related information are exchanged. WhatsApp groups have been created in the respective States for exchange of information and coordination of control efforts. For effective control of locust beyond Scheduled Desert Areas, temporary control camps of LCOs were

established in Shivpuri, Neemuch, Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh, Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh, Dausa, Jaipur, Ajmer, Chittorgarh, Bhilwara in Rajasthan and Fazilka in Punjab during 2020-21 as per requirement; however, presently temporary control camps are functional at Jaipur, Ajmer in Rajasthan, Shivpuri in Madhya Pradesh, Fazilka in Punjab and Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh. From June 22-26, 2020, Joint Secretary (Plant Protection) visited Bikaner, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Barmer, Nagaur and Jaipur to review the locust control operations and coordination with State Government.

Strengthening of Capabilities –

•Ground control –

- During 2019-20, Locust Circle Offices had 37 spray equipments which were utilized for locust control operations. To strengthen locust control capabilities, 10 ground spray equipments were imported from Micron, UK, during January, 2020. After reviewing the locust control status of 2019-20, supply order for additional 60 sprayers was placed on M/s Micron, UK.
- Out of these 60 equipments, 50 equipments have reached India and deployed in control operations. Remaining 10 equipments will reach India on 20th July. Thereafter, Locust Circle Offices will have 104 vehicle mounted sprayers.
- Procurement of additional 55 vehicles (Bolero camper 4WD) has been done to strengthen the control potential.
- Besides, these vehicles mounted sprayers, Locust Circle Offices have 64 hand held sprayers.
- Ministry of Home Affairs has included admissibility of hiring of vehicles, tractors with spray equipments for spraying of plant protection chemicals for pest control; hiring of water tankers; and purchase of plant protection chemicals for locust control under new norms of assistance under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). This has also facilitated the State in their locust control operations.

- To strengthen its capacity, Rajasthan has procured 411 tractor mounted sprayers through State fund. Further, Under Sub-mission on Agriculture Mechanization assistance of Rs. 2.86 crores for 800 tractors mounted spray equipments was sanctioned to Rajasthan. Under RKVY sanction of Rs. 14 crores for hiring of vehicles, tractors and for purchase of pesticides has also been issued.

- Gujarat States has been sanctioned Rs. 1.80 crores under RKVY for capacity enhancement for locust control.

- If we add up the number of tractors and fire tender vehicles deployed by States on various days for Locust control, then till 13.07.2020, State Government of Rajasthan has deployed 3855 tractors and 194 fire tender vehicle; Madhya Pradesh 84 tractors and 96 fire tender vehicle; Uttar Pradesh, 47 tractors and 76 fire tender vehicle; Punjab, 50 tractors and 6 fire tender vehicle; Gujarat, 33 tractors; Haryana 147 tractors and 49 fire tender vehicles for control operations against Locust.

- State Government of Rajasthan has deployed 112 vehicles for State functionaries for survey. Further, 08 survey and 45 control vehicles for locust control operations have been provided to LCOs.

- Pesticide –**

- Approval for procurement of 3,00,000 litre Malathion 96% ULV has been issued from DAC&FW for LCOs from M/s HIL (India) Limited, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.

- Adequate stock of pesticide is being maintained with Locust Circle Offices.

- States are also maintaining adequate stock of recommended pesticides for cropped area by empanelment of suppliers through tender, local purchase etc. Adequate availability of recommended pesticides is being maintained at the District level.

- Human Resources –**

- Presently 94 control teams with spray equipment mounted vehicles are available for ground control and more than 200 Central Government personnel, 50 Technical officers and 22 drivers on contractual basis, are engaged in locust control operations.

- Respective States have also deployed hundreds of their Departmental staff (Agriculture, revenue, extension) for locust survey and control.

- Aerial control–**

For effective control of locusts settling on tall trees and inaccessible areas, following efforts have been made for aerial spray capability-

- On 22nd May 2020, the SOP of aerial spraying of insecticides by drones, airplanes and helicopters was approved by the Central Insecticides Board for locust control.

- Government of India has issued a supply order of 5 CDA atomizer kits for aerial spray capabilities from a UK Based Company M/s Micron. The first two kits are to be delivered in September 2020 and the balance 3 kits, one month after the successful commissioning of the first kit. These kits will be fitted in IAF helicopters (as agreed by them) and will be used for aerial operations for control of desert locusts.

- On the request of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has approved “Conditional exemption to Government entity (Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage) for use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft System for anti-locust operations” on 21st May 2020. Two firms that were finalized through tender, who during demonstration of capability, quit the job due to financial un-viability of the rate quoted by them.

- On 27th May, 2020, Cabinet Secretary reviewed the Locust situation and as a follow-up a committee under the chairmanship of the Additional Secretary, Agriculture was constituted for facilitating the procurement of goods and services for aerial spray of pesticides through drones, aircraft and helicopter with officers of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Pawan Hans,

Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Air India and DAC&FW as members.

- On the recommendation of Empowered Committee, DAC&FW engaged 5 companies to provide services of drones for locust control. Till now 19 drones have been deployed for locust control in Jaisalmer, Barmer, Jodhpur, Bikaner and Nagaur which has undertaken control in 3577 hectares till 12.07.2020. India has become the first country in the world to use drones for locust control after finalizing the protocols.
- On 27th June, 2020, MoCA has further relaxed the terms and conditions of the conditional exemption and permitted the use of engine-powered drone upto 50 kg and use of drones during night times also for anti-locust operations.
- Empowered Committee also finalized a helicopter firm M/s. Malhotra Helicopters for aerial spraying having a single pilot operation with Bell 206-B3 helicopter. This helicopter is presently stationed at Jaisalmer and has conducted control operations in 300 hectares till 12.07.2020.
- The Indian Air Force has also customized aerial spray equipment on a Mi17 helicopter. Trials have been conducted in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan to test the efficacy of the system.

V. Additional budget

Additional budget was allocated to Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage, Faridabad in following budget heads-

Account Head	Original allocation (Rs.in Lakhs)	Additional allocation (Rs.in Lakhs)	Total allocation (Rs.in Lakhs)
Supply &Material	500	1200	1700
Motor Vehicle	100	400	500
Machinery &Equipment	300	900	1200

1.13 Taking note of the incidents of Locust incursion and their potential to destroy fully grown and developed crops in their area of incursion, the Committee had desired the Department to be proactive and prepare an Advance Action Plan

in consultation with all stakeholders and National and International experts to control Locust incursion. The Department in its Action Taken Replies has submitted in detail about the problems of Locust incursion in the Country and steps taken to deal with this menace.

The Committee appreciate the Department for taking proactive and timely action against Locust incursions in the Country, for strengthening of capabilities in terms of human resources, finances, pesticides, infrastructure, equipment, technology and other required paraphernalia. At the same time, the Committee also caution the Government not to become complacent and be prepared with an advance Action Plan in proper coordination with other affected Countries so as to nip the problem in the bud.

CHAPTER - II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation No.1

The Committee note that Agriculture plays a vital role in India's Economy and about 54.6 % of total work force in the Country is engaged in Agriculture and Allied Sector activities and accounts for 16.5% of the Country's Gross Value Added for the year 2019-20. The Committee also note that the Government is implementing various schemes in Agriculture Sector through the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's welfare (Department of Agriculture and Farmer's welfare) and they endeavour to achieve the aim of doubling the income of farmers by the year 2022. The Committee observe that there is significant enhancement in allocations to the Department for the last two financial years. With Budgetary Allocations of Rs. 134399.77 crore for the year 2020-21, the Department of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare has a share of 4.42 % in Total Central Plan Budget for the year 2020-21. The Committee further note that PM- Kisan, Pradhan Mantri FasalBima Yojana and Interest subsidy on Short Term Agriculture Loan under Kisan Credit Card are the major Schemes with substantial allocations of Rs. 75000 crore, Rs. 15695 crore and Rs. 21175 crore respectively. The Committee further observe that the Department has only Rs. 22529.77 crore for implementation of other Schemes in Agriculture Sector. The Committee observe that there was a reduction of Rs.28581.21 crore in the allocations to the Department during 2019-20 at RE stage. The Committee were informed that major deduction of Rs. 20629.85 crore was made in allocations for PM-Kisan scheme due to less than expected enrolment of farmers and also late registration of farmers for this Scheme. However, the Committee observe that there was a reduction of Rs. 7951.35 crore at RE stage in other Schemes during the year 2019-20. The Committee also observe that the Department had proposed an amount of Rs. 155985.10 crore for BE 2020-21, against which Rs.134399.00 crore has been allocated by the Ministry of Finance. The Committee are of the considered view that there is need for enhancement in allocations for implementation of other important Schemes also such as PM-Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Krishnonati Yojana etc. for providing more support to farmers in order to achieve the aim of doubling the income of farmers by 2022. The Committee, therefore, recommends the Government to enhance the allocations for agriculture sector. The Committee desires the Department to take up the issue of enhancement of funds with the Ministry of finance and fully utilize the allocated funds for achieving the targets and effective implementation of the various Schemes and Programmes.

Reply of the Government

The Department agrees with the suggestion of the Committee and is making continuous efforts with Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure for enhanced allocation of funds in agriculture sector. It is further submitted that against the proposed

allocation of Rs. 155985.10 crore for the year 2020-21, Deptt. of Expenditure has allotted Rs. 134399.77 crore during the year 2020-21, which is 3 % more than the Budget Allocation of 2019-20 (Rs. 130485.21 Crore) and 351% more than the allocation for 2013-14 (Rs. 29772.83 crore).

List of Schemes with increased allocation may be seen as under:

(Rs. in Crore)					
S. No.	Sector	BE (2019-20)	BE(Proposed) (2020-21)	BE(Accepted) (2020-21)	% increase w.r.t. BE 2019-20
1.	Interest Subsidy	18000.00	28000.00	21175.00	17.34
2.	Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY)	14000.00	19690.19	15695.00	12.11
3.	Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojna (PMKSY)	3500.00	4500.00	4000.00	14.29
4.	Integrated Development of Horticulture including National Beekeeping Honey Mission (NBHM)	2234.57	2605.73	2310.25	3.39
5.	National Project on Organic Farming	19.23	24.75	28.63	48.88
6.	Organic Value Chain for North-East	160.00	320.00	175.00	9.38
7.	Soil & Land Use of Survey India	28.70	30.45	30.34	5.71
8.	Parampragat Krishi Vikas Yojna	325.00	344.96	500.00	53.85
9.	Sub-Mission on Agriculture Extension	970.98	1323.50	1221.93	25.85
10.	Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Cooperation	135.00	885.20	405.50	200.37
11.	Formation & Promotion of Farmer Producer Organizations	0.00	200.00	500.00	New Scheme
12.	National Food Security Mission- Oil Seeds & Oil Palm	402.99	0.00	503.17	24.86
13.	Integrated Scheme on Agriculture Census & Statistics	268.26	448.80	361.84	34.88
14.	National Rainfed Area Authority	3.85	6.97	4.41	14.55

In so far as utilization of allocated funds is concerned, Department is making concerted efforts for maximizing utilization of funds. It is further submitted that Agriculture being State subject, it is for the State to gear up the utilization, which is closely monitored at the level of Govt. of India via regular VCs with concerned State Governments and Implementing Agencies, periodical review of progress of schemes by the concerned Divisional Heads etc. Depending on the utilization/requirements by the States, more funds would be sought at RE stage.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare)
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Funds Surrendered **Recommendation No.2**

The Committee note that the Department has surrendered an amount of Rs. 21044.42 crore and Rs. 28581.26 crore (anticipated) during 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively. The Committee were informed that as per instructions of the Government, unutilized funds have to be surrendered to Ministry of Finance within the same financial year. The Committee were further informed that less utilization of funds is due to less requirement of funds in NER or proposals are received late or proposals not approved by State Level Monitoring Committees, or inadequate proposals and non submission of proposals by NABARD, States not releasing 40% of States share and non-submission of Utilization Certificates. The Committee were assured by the Secreary, DAC &FW that they are focussing on Schemes with maximum surrender of funds such as RKVY, Minor Irrigations and Price support Scheme. They are holding Video Conferencing with State Government concerned for enhancing the utilization of funds. The Committee are constrained to note that such large amount of funds surrendered would adversely affect the implementation of the Schemes. The Committee are of the considered view that there should be maximum utilization of funds available under various Schemes in order to benefit farmers of the Country. The Committee recommend that the Department should vigorously pursue the matter with the State Governments and other concerned Organizations for expediting the proposals and other related issues to be resolved promptly. The Committee also ecommend that the pace of expenditure and flow of funds under the various schemes should be monitored at regular intervals so as to avoid such major surrender of funds. The Committee, desire the Department to identify the factors and rules in operational guidelines which hinder or restrict the utilization of funds and take necessary steps accordingly to improve the utilization of funds. The Committee would like to be apprised about steps taken in this direction within three months of presentation of this Report.

Reply of the Government

In line with the recommendations of the Committee, the Department is taking several steps for maximizing the utilization of funds available under various schemes. It

is further submitted that Agriculture being State subject, it is for the State to gear up the utilization. However, the Govt. is making regular and vigorous interactions with the States through more number of video conferences, constant follow up by the concerned Divisional Heads with the State Govts. and through Govt. letters so that maximum and also proper utilization of funds takes place.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Department has released Rs 35435.38 crore under various schemes to benefit the farmers during first quarter of FY 2020-21.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
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Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No.1.7 of Chapter I of this Report.

Schedules Castes Sub-Plan **Recommendation No. 5**

The Committee note that there is provision for earmarking 16.6% of Plan Allocation for implementation of Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) under different Schemes / Programmes. It enables better and focused inclusion in programmatic interventions. The Committee further note that the Department were able to utilize Rs. 3812.45 crore, Rs. 5543.45 Crore and Rs. 8735.53 Crore(provisional) as against allocations of Rs. 6420.50 crore, Rs. 11165.86 crore, and Rs. 16826.93 Crore at RE stage during 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively. The Committee were informed that non- capture of category-wise farmers (SCs/STs) under Kisan Credit Card by the Banks is major reason for less utilization of funds under SCSP. The Committee are further surprised to find that the Department do not have ready data about Physical Performance under the Scheme. The Committee are of view that SCSP is one of major Scheme being implemented by the Department which enhances the earning & livelihood of the Scheduled caste farmers by reduction in cost of cultivation & increase in net returns. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to take necessary steps to enhance the level of utilization of funds under SCSP. The Committee also recommend the Department to undertake a Special Drive for Scheduled Caste Farmers to extend benefits available under various Schemes being implemented by the Department. The Committee would also like the Department to furnish Statewise details of Physical Performance under the Scheme.

Reply of the Government

The progress of implementation of Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) component under different Schemes / Programmes is regularly followed up with the State Governments and other implementing agencies through correspondence,

telephonic discussion, video conferences etc. besides reviewing the physical progress during the Zonal and National Conferences for kharif and Rabi every year.

Status of implementation of Scheduled Castes Sub Plan (SCSP) component under some of the important Schemes / Programmes of the Deptt. may be seen as under:

Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS)

Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS) is an open ended scheme for farmers practicing all types of farming activities ranging from crop husbandry, animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries and similar benefit is provided to all categories of farmers. Although there are budgetary allocations but the benefit is provided to all eligible farmers irrespective of category and no person is denied the benefit. If the resources required are more than the budgetary allocation then additional funds are requested through Supplementary Demands for Grants. Anyway the benefit is provided to farmers upfront by banks and the same is later claimed as reimbursement from this Department by banks.

Till the year 2017, the Interest Subvention Scheme (ISS) was a Non-plan scheme, wherein category-wise break-up of beneficiaries was not required. Hence, such claims received from NABARD and RBI were reimbursed without any bifurcation. In the year 2017, Plan and Non-Plan were merged and hence the scheme came under Plan wherein allocation of funds was done category-wise in the scheme and releases were to be made category-wise.

The Department had already instructed the banks to submit category-wise claims for reimbursement. The banks are now sending category-wise audited claims which are being reimbursed on priority basis. All the claims of SC and ST categories received were reimbursed on priority. There are no pending claims pertaining to SC and ST categories. In fact since in many instances, category wise bills of earlier years were not available with banks, this Department had to clear all the bills from the funds allocated for General category. The amount of audited claims of SC and ST categories received for reimbursement was less in comparison to allocation of funds for these categories. Therefore, the utilization of allocated funds was low in these categories and as such for total allocation of funds. This Department has already released Rs.2695.11 crore out of the total budget for SC category of Rs.2699.20 crore in the year 2019-2020. As on date, no audited claims for reimbursement are pending with this Department. The physical performance of Ground level credit disbursed and no. of loan accounts for the year 2019-2020 may be seen at **Annexure-I.**

Pradhan Mantri Kissan Samman Yojana (PM-Kisan)

The release of financial benefits under PM-KISAN Scheme is based on the data of eligible farmers. The data is already segregated category wise depending upon the category wise data of farmers in a particular village / block / district / state received from the State Government. Releases to them are accordingly automatically made from the respective budget heads of the Department. As on 16.6.2020, financial benefit has been released to 9,60,05,044 beneficiaries out of which 1,15,35,828 are SC beneficiaries.

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY)

RKVY is launched as a state plan scheme in 2007-08. Hence, there were no SCSP/TSP component in RKVY Scheme till 2017-18. SCSP component is introduced in RKVY scheme from financial year 2017-18 only as the states are empowered to implement project under the scheme on the basis of their priorities and need under this scheme. So far as RKVY scheme concerned, the release of funds under SCSP component of RKVY during 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 were 18.31%, 16.81% and 19.12% of the provision at RE final grant stage. RKVY is mainly a project based scheme and not an individual beneficiary oriented scheme. However, states are required to maintain data on beneficiary oriented schemes, if any, being implemented by them in the web-based monitoring system developed for RKVY scheme. However, most States are yet to be entered details of individual beneficiary oriented schemes being implemented under SCSP components of RKVY.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)

As per the Guidelines of the Scheme 16.5% and 8.5% of the total allocation or in proportion of SC/ST population in the district should be utilized for Special Component Plan (SCP) & Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) respectively.

Funds to States under SCSP categories under the Scheme are being released based on the percentage of population of SCSP category in the State.

The year-wise details of central assistance released under SCSP component under the PMKSY-PDMC scheme is as under:

Year	Released Amount (Rs. In crore)
2015-16	243.38
2016-17	310.18
2017-18	346.82
2018-19	396.28
2019-20	400.49
Total	1697.15

The physical progress i.e area covered under Micro-Irrigation under PMKSY-PDMC including under SCSP category is at **Annexure- II**

Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization:

The Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization is Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented through the State Governments. The Guidelines of the Scheme stipulates

that 16.60% of the total allocation for SCP and 8.60 % for TSP will be earmarked by the States and allocation to SC/ST farmers will be made proportionate to their population in the district. The funds are accordingly released to the State Governments. The State-wise release of funds towards SCSP and the physical progress under SMAM is enclosed as **Annexure- III**

National eGovernance Plan in Agriculture (NeGPA)

Under this scheme, funds are released to the States for data digitization, State project Monitoring Unit, strengthening of IT infrastructure, connectivity, site preparation, consumables, customization of application & dissemination of agriculture related information irrespective of gender and caste. Budgetary allocation is made under SCSP head also and funds are released to the State having regard to percentage of SC population in that State.

Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH)

The scheme of Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) is area/project based. MIDH aims at promoting holistic growth of horticulture sector through area based regionally differentiated strategies and the Annual Plans received from the State Implementing Agencies are finalized for implementation in selected Districts adopting cluster approach for each fruit and vegetable crop. Keeping in mind the overall social objectives, funds are targeted for the benefit of Scheduled Castes. The State Horticulture Missions are suitably instructed to target funds allocation in proportion to SC population of State for SC farmers/beneficiaries while giving subsidy as well as for skill development for growing horticulture crops. The flow of funds for SC farmers is being determined on rational basis duly keeping in view the nature of the programme, its area of operation, the proportion of these categories of population in the operational area. Funds are released under the scheme for SC in proportion to the population of the respective States as per the Census of India 2001.

Allocation and Release of funds under SCSP category of MIDH is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	BE (Total MIDH)	RE (Total MIDH)	SCSP BE	SCSP RE	SCSP Release
2017-18	2329.13	2198.13	367.74	327.20	221.61
2018-19	2546.24	2108.13	420.97	328.60	229.64
2019-20	2209.57	1551.55	365.20	196.00	155.19
2020-21	2160.00	-	356.22	-	0.00 (as on 30.5.2020)

National Bamboo Mission:

Under the restructured National Bamboo Mission, funds are released to the States as per category wise population in the State. Timely utilization of funds are stressed upon on each and every occasion. Following funds have been released under the Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan :

Year	Amount (Rs. In Crore)
2018-19	14.60
2019-20	9.04

State-wise details of funds released under SCSP is given at **Annexure- IV.**

Sub Mission on Agriculture Forestry (SMAF)

State wise and year wise details of funds released under SCSP and TSP category is attached at **Annexure-V.** In the meetings States are advised for timely utilization of the fund.

National Food Security Mission (NFSM)

In accordance with decision of the GoI regarding implementation of Special Component Plan (SCP) for Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) for Scheduled Tribes, 16% of the total allocation for SCP and 8% for TSP are earmarked. States are allowed to make allocations to SC/ST farmers proportionate to their population in the States/districts.

National Food Security Mission (Oilseeds & Oil Palm)

Financial performance of SCSP under NMOOP scheme for 2017-18 and NFSM (OS & OP) scheme for 2018-19 to 2020-21 may be seen in the following format :-

(Rs. In crore)				
Year	Year	BE	RE	Actual Expenditure
1.	2017-18	71.53	68.01	16.67
2.	2018-19	66.40	58.10	27.14
3.	2019-20	67.00	48.96	22.31
4.	2020-21 (upto 30.06.2020)	89.64	-	11.30

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Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-Kisan)
Recommendation No.6

PM-Kisan was started on 01.12.2018 by the Government of India with a view to provide income support to all farmer families across the country and enable them to take care of expenses related to Agriculture and Allied activities as well as domestic needs. The Scheme aims to provide all farmer families across the country a benefit of Rs.6000 per year in three installments of Rs. 2000. The Scheme is being implemented online through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode for which an exclusive web-portal www.pmkisan.gov.in has been created. The Committee note that identification of beneficiaries for the Scheme is the sole responsibility of the State/UT Governments which upload their necessary details on the PM-Kisan portal for enabling transfer of benefits to them. The Committee further note that 96208559 farmers in 28 States except west Bengal and 7 Union territories were registered since beginning of the scheme. The Committee were informed that 30027429 farmers were provided with first installment during 2018-19, whereas, 54497567, 76066911, 62189810 and 30987112 farmers were provided first, second, third and fourth installment respectively during 2019-20 as on date. The Committee further note that an amount of Rs. 6005.48 crore and Rs. 44748.28 crore were distributed as benefits to the farmers during 2018-19 and 2019-20 (provisional). The Committee were informed that various issues such as non availability of Proper land records in some States, Non-transference of land to heirs in case of deceased landholders, Non availability of proper records after mutation of land in Punjab, Community owned land in North-East regions, Slow Aadhaar authentication of Data on account of mismatch between names in PM-KISAN database and that on Aadhaar, Incorrect bank details, Poor internet connectivity hampering uploading of data in PM-KISAN portal and lack of Promptness of the State Governments in uploading data of beneficiaries are some of the issues affecting pace of enrollment and transfer of benefits to the farmers under the Scheme. However, the Committee were assured by the Department that they are taking steps to reach the target of enrollment of 12 crore farmers under the Scheme and will make it a unique Scheme with maximum outreach in the Country. The Committees are of view that PM-Kisan Scheme is one of the ambitious Programme, which has potential to change the financial status of majority of the poor farmers. It is, therefore, imperative that all necessary steps are taken to register every eligible farmer under the Scheme in order to transfer fund directly in their Bank Account. The Committee desire that there should be extensive awareness campaigns through the various modes so that the information reaches the farmers even in the remote corner of the Country for availing benefits under the Scheme. The Committee also desire the Government to hold regular consultation with State Governments to resolve issues hindering registration of farmers under the Scheme and extend all possible help to make sure the transfer of benefits available under the Scheme to the farmers. The Committee also desire the Government to hold discussion with State Governments who have not uploaded the details of farmers on web portal so that they are not deprived of the benefits of the Scheme. The Committee

recommend the Department to fully utilize the allocated funds for achieving the objectives of the Scheme.

Reply of the Government

The initial hiccups in implementation of the scheme have largely been removed. The total estimated number of beneficiaries of the Scheme are 12.5 crore as per the estimated figures of operational landholdings in the Agriculture Census 2015-16, application of the exclusion criteria of the Operational Guidelines of the Scheme and the feedback received from the States about the number of farmers already registered under the scheme and the estimated number of remaining farmers. Extensive awareness drives were undertaken from time-to-time through the State Governments for covering maximum number of eligible farmers under the scheme.

For enrollment, the farmer is required to approach the local patwari / revenue officer / Nodal Officer (PM-Kisan) nominated by the State Government. To facilitate inclusion of more and more left out farmers, the facility of self-registration through the Farmers Corner in the PM-KISAN portal has been provided. Farmers can also edit their names in PM-Kisandatabase as per their Aadhaar database / card through the Farmers Corner in the portal. Farmers can also know the status of their payment through the Farmers Corner in the portal. Village-wise details of beneficiaries are also available on the Farmers Corner. The Common Service Centres (CSCs) have also been authorized to do registration of the farmers for the Scheme upon payment of fees. The above facilities on Farmers Corner are also available through CSCs. Again a special Mobile APP has been launched, which also provides these facilities. To further help farmers in seeking redressal of their various grievances and replies to their various queries relating to the scheme a 24 x7 IVRS based help-line has also been set up.

Extensive interactions have been / are being done on regular basis with the States through weekly Video Conferencing, written clarifications, telephonic conversations, trainings to officials and personal visits to States by the Nodal Officers of the Department for enrollment of beneficiaries. These measures have paid the dividend and the saturation level in respect of coverage of targeted beneficiaries has almost been achieved. As on 16.6.2020, data of 10,48,63,629 farmers had been uploaded by the State Governments on PM-KISAN portal. Out of this, 100% error-free data of 9,60,05,044 beneficiaries have been utilized and financial benefit released to them and a total sum of Rs.73628.1786 crore has been released in different installments since inception of the scheme. These, however, do not include the farmers of West Bengal as despite repeated requests by Central Government, the West Bengal Government has not so far agreed to extend the benefit of this scheme to the farmers of the State. The State has about 70 lakh farmers eligible for the scheme but due to the indecision on the part of the State Government they have been denied of the financial benefit of the scheme.

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(Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare)
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Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) - Per Drop More Crop Recommendation No.9

The Committee note that Per-Drop-More-Crop Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) focuses on water use efficiency at the farm level through precision/ micro irrigation. Besides promoting precision irrigation (Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation System) and better on-farm water management practices to optimize the use of available water resources, this Component also supports micro level water storage or water conservation/ management activities as Other Interventions (OI) to supplement source creation through micro level water storage or water conservation/management activities to complement and supplement drought proofing measures. The Committee note that there was significant reduction in the Allocations under the Scheme during 2018-19 and 2019-20. The Allocations were reduced to Rs. 2954.69 crore and Rs. 2032.20 crore during this period at RE stage. The Committee further note that the Department were able to utilize only Rs. 2918.37 crore and Rs.1460.27 crore in the same period till 10.02.2020. The Committee were informed that Top-up Subsidy announced by some State Governments under the Scheme and later on budgetary constraints on their part has affected implementation of the Scheme and thereby leading to reduction in Allocations at RE stage. However, the Committee were assured by the Department about improved performance in future due to interest subvention being provided to the States on loan being taken from NABARD for implementation of Scheme. The Committee are of the view that use of microirrigation methods such as drip/sprinkler irrigation to become a norm in Indian agriculture due to scarcity of water caused due to climatic changes associated with global warming. Against this background, promotion of water efficient irrigation method is need of the hour to protect Agriculture Sector of Country. The Committee, therefore, desire the Ministry to enhance the level of utilization of funds under the Scheme. The Committee further desires the Government to enhance the Allocations under the Scheme so that more numbers of farmers could be covered under the Scheme.

Reply of the Government

During the year 2019-20, a total amount of Rs. 2700.01 crore as central share was released. For the year 2020-21 (B.E), Rs. 4000 crore (BE) has been allocated for the scheme. Accordingly, more funds have been allocated during the current year to cover more area under Micro Irrigation and also to benefit large number of farmers.

Further, Micro Irrigation Fund has been created with NABARD with a corpus of Rs. 5000 crore during the year 2017-18 for a period of two years 2018-19 and 2019-20. Now, the period has been extended upto the year 2020-21, keeping in view the extension of the Fourteenth Finance Commission. The objective of the funds is to facilitate the States in mobilizing the resources for expanding coverage of Micro Irrigation by taking up special and innovative projects and also for incentivising micro irrigation beyond the provisions available under PMKSY-PDMC to encourage farmers to install micro irrigation systems.

A Tripartite Memorandum of Agreement has been signed by the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Uttarakhand and West Bengal. Status of the implementation of MIF are as under:

- I. The Steering Committee of DAC&FW has approved proposals amounting to Rs. 3827.37 crore comprising of Rs. 764.13 crore for Gujarat; Rs. 1357.93 crore for Tamil Nadu; Rs. 616.14 crore for Andhra Pradesh; Rs. 291.11 crore for West Bengal and Rs.798.06 crore for Haryana.
- II. The Sanctioning Committee of NABARD has approved proposals of Rs. 2841.58 crore comprising Rs. 764.13 crore for Gujarat, Rs. 1357.93 crore for Tamil Nadu, Rs. 616.14 crore for Andhra Pradesh, and Rs.103.38 crore for Haryana. The projects of Government of West Bengal and remaining projects of Haryana will be considered in the forthcoming meeting of Sanctioning Committee of NABARD.
- III. So far, State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have submitted the withdrawal application for loan of Rs. 616.13 crore and Rs.478.79 crore, respectively.

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(Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare)
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Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region **Recommendation No.12**

The Committee note that Central Sector Scheme 'Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region' is being implemented in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura since 2015-16 for development of Certified Organic Production in a value chain mode to link growers with consumers and to support the development of the entire value chain starting from inputs, seeds, certification and creation of facilities for collection, aggregation, processing, marketing and brand building. The Committee were informed that assistance is being provided to the farmers for cluster development, on/off farm input production, supply of seeds/ planting materials, setting up of functional infrastructure, establishment of integrated processing units, refrigerated transportation, pre-cooling /cold stores chamber, branding, labeling and packaging, hiring of space, hand holding, organic certification through third party, mobilization of farmers/ processors, etc. However, the Committee observe that the Department was able to release only Rs. 481.66 crore as against allocations of Rs.678.86 crore to the States during the period of 2015-16 to 2019-20. The Committee also observe that the desired achievement of target under the Scheme during the same period has been very less. It was observed that only 71492 hectares were covered as against the target of 100000 hectares. Similarly, only 3828 clusters were formed as against the target of formation of 5000 clusters. The Committee also observe that performance of some States such as Mizoram and Meghalaya was not good as compared to other North- Eastern States. The Committee are of view that North-Eastern regions of our Country, due to their pristine land and traditional farming practices, has immense potential for adoption of organic farming methods. The

Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to identify factors which are hampering full utilization of funds under the scheme and take corrective measures. The Committee also desire the Department to hold consultation with State Governments which are not able to achieve the desired target and find out a way forward.

Reply of the Government

These are the some factors which are hampering full utilization of funds under the scheme MOVCDNER:

- Scheme starts fully operating in the last quarter of 2015-16 only and most of the funds released at the fag end of the financial year.
- Non receipt of Utilization Certificate and physical progress from states, therefore less release of funds to the State Governments.

To overcome these constraints following initiatives have been taken to speed up the process:

1. Setting up of a Project Management Unit (PMU) comprising of professionals. The PMU since then is helping the states, implementing Departments and FPO/FPCs in fast tracking the implementation process.
2. Through continuous capacity building, trainings and exposure with industry professionals and technologists now the farmers are gradually realizing the value of working together under one organization/ company and have started cooperating the implementation agencies and are also contributing to the corpus of the company for business.
3. Concentrated development of clusters and addition of farmers from Phase 2 has helped farmers in better networking. Facilities provided in the form of custom hiring centers, collection and aggregation centers and transport vehicle have helped them to overcome the constraints.
4. PMU in collaboration with DAC&FW, state Departments, ICAR institutes, Technology institutes such as ICAR-IIFPT, IIPT, spices board are taking up training programmes on management of FPO/FPCs, quality production, modern methods of handling, value addition, processing and management of processing protocols.
5. To ensure direct marketing network these FPO/FPCs are being exposed to the trade and retail chain networks and facilitated through direct talks with retail chain players and exporters. PMU is playing active role in day to day handholding to FPO/FPCs
6. As a result now consignments are going out of the region and even some FPO/FPCs have been able to sell their produce directly to supply chain actors without local middlemen.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare)
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Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)
Recommendation No.13

The Committee note that Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY), first comprehensive scheme to support Organic Farming in the Country, was launched as a Centrally Sponsored Programme (CSP) from 2015-17 and was further extended upto 2019-20. The Committee were informed that the Scheme PKVY is implemented by the State Government on a per hectare basis for 500-1000 hectare area in each cluster for group of farmers having a total area of 20 hectare as far as possible in contiguous patch within a village. The farmer within a group can avail benefit to a maximum of 2 ha. and the limit of assistance is Rs.50, 000 per hac., out of which 62% i.e., Rs. 31,000 is given as incentive to a farmer for organic conversion, organic inputs, on farm inputs, production infrastructure, etc., directly through DBT during the conversion period of 3 years. The Committee were further informed that a target of an area of around 4 lacks ha is proposed to be covered in the coming 2 years which is double the area covered in the last three years. The Committee note that the Ministry was able to utilize funds available under the Scheme as there was expenditure of Rs. 328.69 crore as against available fund of Rs. 300.00 crore at RE stage during 2018-19. Similarly, the Department was able to utilize Rs. 226.40 crore as on date as against available fund of Rs. 299.36 crore during 2019-20. The Committee also express satisfaction on substantially enhanced allocations of Rs. 500 crore proposed for 2020-21. Considering the harmful impact of chemical fertilizers and pesticides on soil ecology and human health, the Committee are of the opinion that Organic Farming is need of the hour. However, there is need of research for development of ecologically suitable bio- fertilizers and bio-pesticides to enhance the productivity of Organic Farming. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Ministry to take steps to support and enhance Research Projects in this Sector. Further, the Committee desire the Government to extend marketing support to the farmers through branding and procurement of Organic Products. The Committee would like to be apprized about steps being taken in this direction within three months of presentation of this Report.

Reply of the Government

1. Steps to support and enhance Research Projects in this Sector

Indian Council of Agricultural Research through ICAR-Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research, Modipuram operates a research scheme of All India Network Programme on Organic Farming (AI-NPOF) in which the number of research centers have been increased from 13 (12 states) to 20 (16 states) from 2015-16 to develop package of practices for organic production of crops in cropping and farming systems perspective. The scheme involves 11 State Agricultural Universities, 8 ICAR institutes/centers and 1 deemed to be/special heritage university. Indian Council of Agricultural Research through ICAR-Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research,

Modipuram operates a research schemes namely All India Network Programme on Organic Farming (AI-NPOF) and AICRP on Integrated Farming Systems in 25 States/UTs. A total 51 packages for organic production of crops in cropping systems perspective have been developed. The organic farming packages are also being demonstrated to farmers through on-farm research, Scheduled Tribe component, Scheduled Caste Sub Plan Schemes in all the States.

Network Programme on Organic Farming (NPOF): Indian Council of Agricultural Research through ICAR-Indian Institute of Farming Systems Research, Modipuram operates a research scheme of All India-Network Programme on Organic Farming (AI-NPOF) in which 20 number of research centres are operated in 16 states from 2015-16 to develop package of practices for organic production of crops in cropping and farming systems perspective. The scheme involves 11 State Agricultural Universities, 8 ICAR institutes/centers and 1 deemed to be/special heritage university. Thirteen experiments/study are being undertaken during 2018-19 at various locations through All India Network Programme on Organic Farming (AI-NPOF). As an outcome of the research of All India Network Programme on Organic Farming, scientific package of practices for organic production of crops in cropping systems perspective have been developed for 51 cropping systems suitable for 12 states. The developed packages have been submitted to Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare under Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare for up-scaling through NRM division of ICAR, New Delhi. The best performing varieties under organic management for different crops suitable to 12 states were also identified. One acre Integrated Organic Farming System (IOFS) models suitable for marginal farmers have been established in Kerala, Meghalaya and Tamil Nadu which provides scope to generate more than 80% of inputs required for organic farming within the farm, thus reducing the cost of production.

Various ICAR institutions particularly Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, Indian Institute of Farming System Research, Modipuram, Central Research Institute for Dry Land Agriculture, Hyderabad, Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur, Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bengaluru, Central Plantation Crops Research Institute, Kasargod, ICAR Research Complexes and State Agricultural Universities are involved in developing technologies for production of manures/compost from various waste materials.

2. The government to extend marketing support to the farmers through branding and procurement of organic products, and

3. Steps being taken in this direction within three months of presentation of this report.

(i)To promote organic products, a dedicated web portal- www.Jaivikkheti.in/ has also been created to encourage organic farming by directly connecting the growers with the consumers to fetch a better price for their products Jaivikkheti portal is a one stop solution for facilitating organic farmers to sell their organic produce and promoting organic farming and its benefits. This portal caters various stakeholders like local groups, individual farmers, buyers and input suppliers. In Jaivik-kheti portal total 3.25

lakh farmers, 9828 local groups, 73 input suppliers, 6575 buyers and 654 products have been registered.

(ii) Various Brands developed under PKVY Scheme:

Madhya Pradesh-Made in Mandla; Uttarakhand-Organic Uttarakhand; Tamil Nadu-Tamil Nadu Organic Product (TOP); Maharashtra-Sahi organic, Nasik Organic & Gadchiroli Organic Farming; Jharkhand-Jaivik Jharkhand, from the land of Jharkhand; Chhatisgarh- Aadim brand of Bhoomi Gadi FPO, Bastar Naturals; Punjab-Five Rivers; Tripura-Tripureshwari Fresh.

Business tie-ups have been formed with various business groups for marketing of organic produce:

- M/s Adani Group
- M/s Home Burps
- Priyank Associate
- Advance Crop Care (India) Pvt. Ltd.
- Prasad Nutriment Pvt. Ltd.
- All Season Farm Fresh, Jamshedpur

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Sub - Mission on Agriculture Extension **Recommendation No.14**

The Committee note that Sub - Mission on Agriculture Extension Scheme is being implemented by the Department with an objective to restructure and strengthen the agricultural extension machinery with a judicious mix of extensive physical outreach of personnel, enhancement in quality through domain experts & regular capacity building, interactive methods of information dissemination, Public Private Partnership, pervasive & innovative use of Information & Communication Technology (ICT) / mass media, federation of groups and convergence of extension related efforts under various Schemes and Programmes of the Government of India and the State Governments. The SMAE aims to appropriately strengthen, expand and upscale existing Extension Schemes. The Committee note that there are four sub-components under the Scheme namely Extension Support to Central Instt./ DOE including KCC, Agri-Clinics & Agri-Business Centres Mass Media Support to Agriculture Extension and Support to State Extn. Prog. For Extension Reforms. The Committee observe that the overall expenditure level under the Scheme is quite good and Department were able to utilize Rs. 837.13 crore and Rs. 914.65 crore as against available funds of Rs. 837.13 crore and Rs. 894.05 crore at RE stage during 2017-18 and 2018-19 respectively. However, despite almost full utilization of funds, the Department was not able to achieve Physical Targets such as Training of

Extension Personnel, Exposure Visit, Training, Demonstration, Kisan Mela/ FSI/ Field Days &KisanGoshties, Mobilization of Farmers Groups and Farm School set under the scheme since 2018-19. The Committee are of view that existence of a robust system of KVKs is very much necessary for transfer of knowledge from lab to land. The well-being of the farmers can be further improved if they are provided information relating to latest research in techniques, seeds, methods, implements and other necessary inputs for making agriculture remunerative. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to take necessary steps in coordination with State Government concerned to achieve the target set under the Scheme. The Committee also desire the Government to suitably enhance allocations under the Scheme to enhance the scope of Agriculture Extension Services to the farmers.

Reply of the Government

The Department has taken necessary steps in coordination with the State Governments and ICAR to enhance the scope of agriculture extension services to the farmers under the scheme like regular review of progress in zonal conference, video conferencing and consultative meetings etc.

The reasons for reflecting less achievement of physical targets during 2018-19 and 2019-20 was that State Governments have approved higher allocation over and above actual allocation of funds made by this Department. State Governments have also made higher physical targets in their Work Plans approved by the SLSC of the concerned States.

It is submitted that, this Department has communicated a tentative allocation of **Rs.1027.30Crore**(GOI Share- Rs.652.50crore and State Share-Rs.375.80crore) to States during 2018-19 whereas State Governments submitted a large self of work plans over and above allocated budget(**Rs.1564.53 crores**) along with higher physical targets. However, an amount of Rs.570.83 crore(GOI Share) was actually released. Similarly, States have approved their higher work plans to the tune of **Rs.1691.55 crore** against tentative allocation for the year 2019-20 of Rs.1003.79 crore(GOI Share – Rs.614.83 crore and State Share-Rs.388.96 crore) indicating higher physical targets of activities. Whereas, an amount of Rs.595.28 crore (GOI Share) was actually released during 2019-20.

In spite of the fact that States have made higher physical targets, it is submitted that achievements have exceeded the actual physical targets which have been approved by the EFC for the year 2018-19 in majority of activities and similarly, States have reported progress more than 92% against physical targets set out by EFC in most of the extension activities during 2019-20, which may be seen in the following tables:

Financial year 2018-19:

S. No.	Activity	Phy. Targets as per approved EFC/CCEA	Achievements reported by States	Achievement Percentage
1	Exposure Visits(Mandays)	897000	1103070	123%
2	Farmers Trg.(Mandays)	1633000	2334359	143%
3	Demonstration(Nos.)	309000	395951	128%
4	KisamMela/FSI/Field Days/ Ghoshties (Nos.)	9400	13427	142%
5	Farm Schools (Nos.)	16000	14837	92%
6	Mobilization of Farmers Groups (no. of Groups)	36500	25233	69%
7	Trg. of extension personnel (Mandays)	155000	62711	41%

Financial year 2019-20:

S. No.	Activity	Phy. Targets as per approved EFC/CCEA	Achievements reported by States	Percentage
1	Exposure Visits(Mandays)	986700	997749	101.11%
2	Farmers Trg. (Mandays)	1796000	1799429	100.19%
3	Demonstration(Nos.)	339900	328012	96.50%
4	Farm Schools (Nos.)	17500	16198	92.56%
5	KisanMela/FSI/Field Days/ Ghoshties (Nos.)	10000	8461	84.61%
6	Mobilization of Farmers Groups(no. of Groups)	40000	24288	60.72%
7	Trg. of extension personnel (Mandays)	170000	74724	44%

Financial year 2020-21:

In order to enhance the scope of Agriculture Extension Services to the farmers, allocation of central share for the year 2020-21 has been enhanced to the tune of Rs.824.02 crore which is 34% higher than previous year's allocation.

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(Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare)
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Sub- Mission on Agriculture Mechanization
Recommendation No.15

The Committee note that Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) was launched in the year 2014-15 with the objectives of Increasing the

reach of farm mechanization , promoting Custom Hiring Centres ,creating hubs for hi-tech & high value farm equipments ,creating awareness among stakeholders through demonstration and capacity building activities and ensuring performance testing and certification at designated testing centers located all over the country. The Committee further note that the Department were able to utilize Rs. 2349.21 crore as against allocations of Rs. 3355.05 crore since 2014-15. Keeping in view of scarcity of cheap labour and need to enhance agriculture productivity, the Committee are of the view that stress on enhancing the level of farm mechanization is utmost necessity. Enhancing the level of mechanization may also reduce the input cost for agriculture sector. The Committee, therefore, desire to enhance the Allocations under the Scheme for coverage of maximum numbers of farmers. The Committee also desire the Ministry to establish, at least, one custom Hiring Centre and High tech and High Value farm equipment at Panchayat level depending upon the feasibility.

Reply of the Government

Under the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization financial assistance for establishment of Custom Hiring Centres is provided @ 40% of the project cost. Since the inception of the scheme in 2014-15, 10209 Custom Hiring Centres, 255 Hi-tech Hubs and 7828 Village Level Farm Machinery Banks for Custom Hiring have been established. The allocation for the Sub-Mission has been considerably enhanced from Rs. 208.30 crores in 2014-15 to Rs.1033.34 crores in 2020-21. The Guidelines of the scheme have been revised in 2020-21 and Gram Panchayats have also been identified as eligible for financial assistance for establishment of Custom Hiring Centres. Depending on the feasibility, it has been targeted to establish at least one Custom Hiring Centre in each village by the end of 2024-25.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare)
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Tackling the Challenge of Locust Attack in Border Districts **Recommendation No.17**

The Committee note that incident of Locust incursion was reported in border Districts of Rajasthan and Gujarat during 2019. The Committee were informed that Locust Warning Organization (LWO), Jodhpur, Directorate of Plant Protection Quarantine and Storage under Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare in coordination with District Authorities, State Government officials, BSF personals and farmers were able to control the locust incursion. The Committee note that “Locust Warning Organization (LWO)”, which is responsible to monitor and control the locust situation in Scheduled Desert Area (SDA) of Rajasthan and Gujarat by way of survey and surveillance Locust Control and Research (LC&R), is a Subcomponent of Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India (SMPMA) Scheme. The Committee are of the view that locust

incursion in border Districts of Rajasthan and Gujarat has potential to destroy fully grown and developed crops in these areas on a large scale and therefore, there is need of well drafted Action Plan to contain their impact. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to be proactive and prepare an Advance Action plan in consultation with all stake holders and National and International Experts to control Locust incursion.

Reply of the Government

1.1 Locust is a trans-boundary migratory pest. It has the ability to fly hundreds of kilometres collectively in swarms. Found in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, they can inhabit some sixty countries and can cover one-fifth of Earth's land surface. Desert locust plagues can threaten the economic livelihood by destroying crops. Swarms of locusts come to India from spring breeding areas of Africa, Middle East and South West Asia during the monsoon season for summer breeding in Scheduled Desert Area of Rajasthan and Gujarat.

1.2 Locust Warning Organization (LWO) and ten Locust Circle Offices (LCOs) of Government of India are situated in Rajasthan (Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Phalodi, Barmer, Jalore, Churu, Nagaur, Suratgarh) and Gujarat (Palanpur and Bhuj), who primarily monitor, survey and control Desert Locust in two lakh square kilometre Scheduled Desert Area of Rajasthan and Gujarat in coordination with the State Governments. Further the LWO and LCOs are also involved in capacity building activities of State Government officials and farmers with regard to locust control. The State Governments through the District Administration and the State Agriculture Department undertake locust control activities in the cropped area of the State.

1.3 In 2019-20, after a gap of 26 years, India witnessed a locust attack of a large magnitude in the states of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Punjab. Starting from 22nd May, 2019 till 17th February 2020, a total of 4,03,488 hectare area was treated and locust was controlled by Locust Circle Offices in coordination with the District Administration and State Agriculture Department of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Punjab. Along with this, the State Agriculture Department of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Punjab undertook Locust control operations in cropped areas of the State. During 2019-20, control operations were done in 3,93,933 hectare area of eleven districts of Rajasthan; 9,505 hectare area in two districts of Gujarat and 50 hectare area in one district of Punjab. Senior Locust Forecasting Officer of Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Mr. Keith Cressman, who visited India on 16-17 January, 2020 appreciated the efforts of India in Locust control. In its report he has mentioned that *“the efforts undertaken by the LWO in 2019, supplemented by important contributions from other collaborators in the affected districts such as farmers and firefighters as well as District Collectors, were successful in containing the outbreak. Clearly if this had not been the case, tremendous crop damage would have occurred in Rajasthan that would have had significant impacts on food security and livelihoods in western India and beyond.”*

1.4 As per the final Memorandum given by the State Government of Rajasthan to the inter-ministerial team, a total area of 1,75,974.33 hectares of 8 districts of the state was affected by locust attack during 2019-20. It has also been reported by the State

Government of Rajasthan that the State Government disbursed Rs. 106.21 crore as agricultural input subsidy to 64,087 farmers from the State Disaster Response Fund and Rs. 9.19 crore spent on infrastructure of locust control.

1.5 On 23rd May, 2020, the Disaster Management Division, Government of India has approved and released assistance of Rs. 68.65 crore from National Disaster Response Fund to the State of Rajasthan for locust attack during 2019-20.

1.6 The State Government of Gujarat has reported that crop loss was observed in a total area of 19,313 hectares of 2 districts of the State due to locust attack during the year 2019-20. The State Government of Gujarat disbursed Rs 23.91 crore as agricultural input subsidy from the State Disaster Response Fund during 2019-20.

2 Steps taken to deal with the menace

Anticipating this scenario various measures have been undertaken to strengthen the preparedness and control capabilities of States and LCOs -

A. Preparedness-

Review meetings were organised at different levels (Hon'ble Agriculture Minister, Cabinet Secretary, Secretary-DAC&FW, Joint Secretary-PP), VCs were organised for different State Governments and locust control preparedness is being reviewed.

Honourable Agriculture Minister reviewed the locust control preparedness and situation through meetings and VCs on 6th May, 13th May and 16th June, 2020 and detailed instructions were given for creating awareness among State Officials and farmers, effective survey & control of locust in the affected areas in coordination with the States and exploring the aerial spray capabilities.

Secretary, DAC&FW reviewed the status of Desert Locust Control on 25th February, 5th May, 22nd May, 29th May and 14th July, 2020 through meetings and VCs with Principal Secretaries (Agriculture) and District Magistrates of Locust affected States. Representatives of Ministry of External Affairs and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) also attended two meetings. In these meetings and VCs, States were appraised of the Locust situation and the forecast issued by FAO, strategy was chalked out for locust control, preparedness was reviewed to ensure necessary coordination. States were also oriented about the locust and steps to be taken for Locust control in case of incursion.

On 22nd April 2020, letters were also written by Special Secretary (Plant Protection) to the State governments of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana and Punjab to make necessary preparation for effective control of locusts. On 18th May 2020 Joint Secretary (Plant Protection) organized a VC with the District Magistrates and District Agricultural Officers of Madhya Pradesh on Locust situation and preparedness.

Advisories were issued by the Plant Protection Advisor to different States on 17th April, 29th May and 12th June, 2020 regarding the potential attack and preparation of locusts, monitoring and surveillance of locust in non-scheduled desert especially near river basins for any possible breeding of desert locust. Contingency plan, locust awareness literature, details of approved pesticides,

Standard Operating Procedures for Survey & control, control room, communication plan, aerial spray; training material, awareness videos were shared with all stakeholder States. Fortnightly bulletin on status of locusts and latest information released by the FAO, are being sent to the State Agricultural Departments regularly.

During March-April, 2020, letters were issued from Secretary DAC&FW to the Foreign Secretary, MEA and proposed to provide supply of pesticides to Iran on a bilateral basis. Iran has accepted the Indian Government's offer of supply of 25000 litres of pesticides and the supply has been made by HIL on 8th June 2020. The High Commissioner of India in Kenya and the Ambassador of India to Ethiopia were requested for regular feedback about locust status.

On 21st May, 2020 Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India wrote a letter to Pakistan High Commissioner in Delhi, proposing coordinated locust control operations along the India-Pakistan border. In addition, it also proposed to supply pesticides (Malathion 96% ULV) to Pakistan for locust control.

A High Level virtual meeting on Desert Locust in South-West Asian countries was held on 11 March 2020, at the office of the FAO, India. Representatives of four member countries (Afghanistan, India, Iran and Pakistan) and the Plant Protection Division of FAO, Rome participated in the meeting. MoS Sh. Kailash Choudhury and Secretary DAC&FW, also attended the meeting. Subsequently, 17 virtual meetings of technical officers of member countries have been held so far via skype for sharing of strategic information on actual status, movement and control of locust in member countries of South West Asian Commission on Locust control.

Training programmes and mock drill operations were conducted by Locust Circle Offices for the State Extension Officers of Rajasthan and Gujarat. In addition, Central Integrated Pest Management Centres also conducted awareness programmes in the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Punjab, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Chhattisgarh. Control rooms are established in Locust Warning Organization, Locust Circle Offices and District Headquarters by States and locust related information are exchanged. WhatsApp groups have been created in the respective States for exchange of information and coordination of control efforts. For effective control of locust beyond Scheduled Desert Areas, temporary control camps of LCOs were established in Shivpuri, Neemuch, Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh, Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh, Dausa, Jaipur, Ajmer, Chittorgarh, Bhilwara in Rajasthan and Fazilka in Punjab during 2020-21 as per requirement; however, presently temporary control camps are functional at Jaipur, Ajmer in Rajasthan, Shivpuri in Madhya Pradesh, Fazilka in Punjab and Jhansi in Uttar Pradesh. From June 22-26, 2020, Joint Secretary (Plant Protection) visited Bikaner, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Barmer, Nagaur and Jaipur to review the locust control operations and coordination with State Government.

Strengthening of Capabilities –

I. Ground control –

- During 2019-20, Locust Circle Offices had 37 spray equipments which were utilized for locust control operations. To strengthen locust control capabilities, 10

ground spray equipments were imported from Micron, UK, during January, 2020. After reviewing the locust control status of 2019-20, supply order for additional 60 sprayers was placed on M/s Micron, UK.

- Out of these 60 equipments, 50 equipments have reached India and deployed in control operations. Remaining 10 equipments will reach India on 20th July. Thereafter, Locust Circle Offices will have 104 vehicle mounted sprayers.
- Procurement of additional 55 vehicles (Bolero camper 4WD) has been done to strengthen the control potential.
- Besides, these vehicles mounted sprayers, Locust Circle Offices have 64 hand held sprayers.
- Ministry of Home Affairs has included admissibility of hiring of vehicles, tractors with spray equipments for spraying of plant protection chemicals for pest control; hiring of water tankers; and purchase of plant protection chemicals for locust control under new norms of assistance under State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). This has also facilitated the State in their locust control operations.
- To strengthen its capacity, Rajasthan has procured 411 tractor mounted sprayers through State fund. Further, Under Sub-mission on Agriculture Mechanization assistance of Rs. 2.86 crores for 800 tractors mounted spray equipments was sanctioned to Rajasthan. Under RKVY sanction of Rs. 14 crores for hiring of vehicles, tractors and for purchase of pesticides has also been issued.
- Gujarat States has been sanctioned Rs. 1.80 crores under RKVY for capacity enhancement for locust control.
- If we add up the number of tractors and fire tender vehicles deployed by States on various days for Locust control, then till 13.07.2020, State Government of Rajasthan has deployed 3855 tractors and 194 fire tender vehicle; Madhya Pradesh 84 tractors and 96 fire tender vehicle; Uttar Pradesh, 47 tractors and 76 fire tender vehicle; Punjab, 50 tractors and 6 fire tender vehicle; Gujarat, 33 tractors; Haryana 147 tractors and 49 fire tender vehicles for control operations against Locust.
- State Government of Rajasthan has deployed 112 vehicles for State functionaries for survey. Further, 08 survey and 45 control vehicles for locust control operations have been provided to LCOs.

II. Pesticide –

- Approval for procurement of 3,00,000 litre Malathion 96% ULV has been issued from DAC&FW for LCOs from M/s HIL (India) Limited, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.
- Adequate stock of pesticide is being maintained with Locust Circle Offices.
- States are also maintaining adequate stock of recommended pesticides for cropped area by empanelment of suppliers through tender, local purchase etc.

Adequate availability of recommended pesticides is being maintained at the District level.

III. Human Resources –

- Presently 94 control teams with spray equipment mounted vehicles are available for ground control and more than 200 Central Government personnel, 50 Technical officers and 22 drivers on contractual basis, are engaged in locust control operations.
- Respective States have also deployed hundreds of their Departmental staff (Agriculture, revenue, extension) for locust survey and control.

IV. Aerial control–

For effective control of locusts settling on tall trees and inaccessible areas, following efforts have been made for aerial spray capability-

- On 22nd May 2020, the SOP of aerial spraying of insecticides by drones, airplanes and helicopters was approved by the Central Insecticides Board for locust control.
- Government of India has issued a supply order of 5 CDA atomizer kits for aerial spray capabilities from a UK Based Company M/s Micron. The first two kits are to be delivered in September 2020 and the balance 3 kits, one month after the successful commissioning of the first kit. These kits will be fitted in IAF helicopters (as agreed by them) and will be used for aerial operations for control of desert locusts.
- On the request of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has approved “Conditional exemption to Government entity (Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine & Storage) for use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft System for anti-locust operations” on 21st May 2020. Two firms that were finalized through tender, who during demonstration of capability, quit the job due to financial un-viability of the rate quoted by them.
- On 27th May, 2020, Cabinet Secretary reviewed the Locust situation and as a follow-up a committee under the chairmanship of the Additional Secretary, Agriculture was constituted for facilitating the procurement of goods and services for aerial spray of pesticides through drones, aircraft and helicopter with officers of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Pawan Hans, Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Air India and DAC&FW as members.
- On the recommendation of Empowered Committee, DAC&FW engaged 5 companies to provide services of drones for locust control. Till now 19 drones have been deployed for locust control in Jaisalmer, Barmer, Jodhpur, Bikaner and Nagaur which has undertaken control in 3577 hectares till 12.07.2020. India has become the first country in the world to use drones for locust control after finalizing the protocols.
- On 27th June, 2020, MoCA has further relaxed the terms and conditions of the conditional exemption and permitted the use of engine-powered drone upto 50 kg and use of drones during night times also for anti-locust operations.

- Empowered Committee also finalized a helicopter firm M/s. Malhotra Helicopters for aerial spraying having a single pilot operation with Bell 206-B3 helicopter. This helicopter is presently stationed at Jaisalmer and has conducted control operations in 300 hectares till 12.07.2020.
- The Indian Air Force has also customized aerial spray equipment on a Mi17 helicopter. Trials have been conducted in Jodhpur district of Rajasthan to test the efficacy of the system.

V. Additional budget

Additional budget was allocated to Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage, Faridabad in following budget heads-

Account Head	Original allocation (Rs.in Lakhs)	Additional allocation (Rs.in Lakhs)	Total allocation (Rs.in Lakhs)
Supply & Material	500	1200	1700
Motor Vehicle	100	400	500
Machinery & Equipment	300	900	1200

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare)
F.No.6-2/2020-B&A dt. 30th July., 2020]

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No.1.13 of Chapter I of this Report.

CHAPTER - III

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE GOVERNMENT'S REPLIES

Recommendation No.7

The Committee observe that the Department has allowed the benefits under the scheme to the farmers tilling community land in North- eastern States. However, same benefits are not available to the tenant farmers and farmers tilling Panchayat/ Government land whose name is not recorded in Government (Jamabandi). The Committee are of the view that tenant farmers constitute significant portion of Landless Farmers in many States and depriving them from the benefits of Scheme will be a disservice to them. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to examine this issue in coordination with all State governments so that Landless and Tenant farmers can also be extended benefits available under PM-Kisan Scheme. The committee would like to be apprised about steps taken in this direction within three months of presentation of this Report.

Reply of the Government

In some of the North Eastern States, the land ownership rights are community based and it might not be possible to assess the quantum of land holder farmers. The Operational Guidelines of the PM-KISAN Scheme accordingly provide that in such States an alternate implementation mechanism for eligibility of the farmers will be developed and approved by the Committee of Union Ministers of Ministry of Development of North East Region (DoNER), the Ministry of Rural Development (Department of Land Resources), the Union Agriculture Minister and the concerned State Chief Ministers or their Ministerial representatives, based on the proposal by the concerned North Eastern States. Accordingly special mechanisms have been developed in the States of Manipur and Nagaland. Similarly proposals in that regard received from Meghalaya are under consideration. Similarly, forest dweller tribal population have also been provided the benefit of the scheme on the basis of pattas given to them by the State Governments under the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, subject to other eligibility conditions. These alternative procedures are, however, not the rule but exceptions, resorted to due to the unique position of the farmers in these States / areas. Hence their cases cannot be equated with tenant / landless farmers of other States, as this will be against the basic format of the scheme.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare)
F.No.6-2/2020-B&A dt. 30th July., 2020]

Recommendation No.16

The Committee are also of considered opinion about need of research and development of agriculture equipment suitable for small and fragmented land available with majority of Indian Farmers. Further, the Country should be self-sufficient in development as well as production of High Tech Farm Equipments in the Country. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to take steps for establishment and support of a specific Research Centre for High Tech Farm Equipment.

Reply of the Government

Necessary infrastructure for Research and Development of agricultural machinery is already available in the country and it is an ongoing activity being carried out by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) through the Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal and All India Coordinated Research Project on Farm Implement and Machinery at various locations throughout the country. India is also self-sufficient in manufacturing of almost all types of agricultural machines and equipment and is world leader in manufacturing of tractors.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare)
F.No.6-2/2020-B&A dt. 30th July., 2020]

CHAPTER - IV

OBSERVATIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

National Food Security Mission Recommendation No.11

The Committee note that National Food Security Mission which was launched in the year 2007-08 to increase the production of rice, wheat and pulses in the Country through area expansion and productivity enhancement; restoring soil fertility and productivity; creating employment opportunities and enhancing the farm level economy is being implemented beyond the 12th Plan (2017-18 to 2019-20) with new targets to achieve 13 million tonnes of additional foodgrains production comprising of rice– 5 million tonnes, wheat- 3 million tonnes, pulses-3 million tonnes and nutri-cum-coarse cereals- 2 million tonnes by 2019-20 with a new objective to enhance Post-harvest value addition at farm gate for better price realization to farmers through efficient market linkages. The Committee were informed that basic strategy of the Mission is to promote and extend improved technologies of package of practices of crops through various types of demonstrations (FLDs/Cluster), distribution of HYV seeds, production of seeds, distribution of micro-nutrients/ soil ameliorants/integrated nutrient management/integrated pest management, improved resource management tools/ machineries /implements, efficient water application devices along with capacity building of farmers and local initiatives; award for best performing districts etc.

The Committee also note that NFSM is being implemented in identified Districts of 29 States of the country. NFSM-Rice is implemented in 194 Districts of 25 States, NFSM Wheat in 126 districts of 11 States, NFSM- Pulses in 638 Districts of all 29 States, NFSM-Coarse Cereals in 269 Districts of 27 States except Goa and Kerala. From the year 2018-19, NFSM-Nutri-Cereals is being implemented in 202 Districts of 14 States (Jowar in 88 Districts of 10 States, Bajra in 88 Districts of 9 States, Ragi in 44 Districts of 8 States and other Millets in 43 Districts of 7 States). Under NFSM-Coarse Cereals Maize is being implemented in 237 Districts of 27 States and barley in 39 districts of 4 States of the country. The North Eastern States, Himachal Pradesh, UT of Jammu & Kashmir have been given flexibility to implement the programme on nutri-cereals. The programme is being implemented on 60:40 sharing basis between Gol and general states and 90:10 sharing basis for North Eastern States and 3 Himalayan States from 2015-16.

The Committee observe that the Department was able to achieve the production of 2850.13 lakh tonnes as against the State-wise target of 2745.40 lakh tonnes under the Scheme during 2017-18, whereas, there was production of 2849.52 lakh tonnes as against the target of 2902.55 lakh tonnes during 2018-19. The Committee further note that there is demand of continuing this Scheme

beyond 2019-20 and State Governments have been requesting this Ministry for continuation of NFSM Programme at various forums like meetings, workshops, during monitoring of the Programme by GoI officials in order to sustain the food & nutritional security and to meet the demand of foodgrains and commercial crops for increasing population of the Country. Even ICAR has also supported the Programme for its continuation and implementation of this programme will not only meet the demand of foodgrains but also enhance the productivity of various crops through dissemination of the latest crop production & protection technologies at farmers' field. The Committee are of view that National Food Security Mission has been able to ensure food security of the Country to a large extent by enhancing the food grain production and with added emphasis on nutricereals, it will also help to diversify food basket with nutritional security. The Committee recommend the Government to continue this Scheme in coming years so that farmers may be provided necessary support to enhance food grain production in the Country.

Reply of the Government

“The National Food Security Mission (NFSM) is continued during 2020-21 and is being implemented in all the 28 States and Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The programme is aimed at sustainable production of foodgrain production to enhance the farm level economy with added emphasis on pulses, nutri-cum-coarse cereals. Various interventions i.e. cluster demonstrations on improved package of practices, demonstrations on cropping system, Seed distribution of HYVs, farm machineries/ resource conservations machineries/ tools, efficient water applications tools, plant protection measures, nutrient management/ soil ameliorants, cropping system based trainings to the farmers etc are promoted to support the farmers to enhance production and productivity of foodgrain crops.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare)
F.No.6-2/2020-B&A dt. 30th July., 2020]

Comments of the Committee

For comments of the Committee please refer to Para No.1.10 of Chapter I of this Report.

CHAPTER - V

OBSERVATIONS/ RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

Status of Utilization Certificates

Recommendation No.3

The Committee note that the issue of pending Utilization Certificates is one of the factors which hampers consequent release of funds to the States causing reduction in allocations at RE Stage under various Schemes being implemented by the Department. The Committee further note that there is pendency of an amount of Rs. 5173.24 crore, 6259.99 crore and Rs. 4156.77 crore against the outstanding Utilization Certificates as on 01.04.2017, 01.04.2018 and 30.12.2019 respectively under various Schemes. The Committee further observe that RashtriyaKrish Vikas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, Sub-mission on Agriculture Mechanization and Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana are major Schemes in which Utilization Certificates are yet to be received from the State Governments Concerned. The Committee were informed that top up subsidy granted by the State Governments under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, delay in finalization of infrastructure schemes under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, etc. are major factors affecting submission of Utilization Certificates from the State Governments. The non-submission of UCs by the respective States/UTs is of serious concern to the Committee as further processes are often held up for want of submission of such certificates which may in turn result in stalling the progress in implementation of important Schemes having direct impact on the vulnerable farmers in the Country. The Committee recall that the issue of pending UCs has always been cited by the Department as one of the main reasons for less than desired use of allocated funds. The Committee, time and again, had emphasized on resolving this pernicious problem. However, the Department has not been able to solve this issue till date. The Committee are of the view that there is need of enhancing the time period for submission of UCs in Schemes involving Infrastructure Projects. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to take up this issue with the Ministry of Finance in order to enhance the level of utilization of funds under various Schemes in Agriculture and Allied sectors. The Committee would like to be apprised about the steps taken in this direction within three months of presentation of this Report.

Reply of the Government

The Department has noted the concern of the Committee and to inform that Department will consider extension of timeline for submission of UCs by the States for release of second installment in consultation with the stakeholders while revising the scheme for implementation from 2021-22, co-terminus with 14th Finance Commission. Suitable provision will be proposed in EFC Memo in this regard.

It is further informed that the matter of Unspent balance is regularly followed up with the State Governments and other implementing agencies through correspondence, telephonic discussions, video conferences, etc. The need for finalizing the projects under the various schemes and furnishing UCs in time has also been emphasized in various review meeting held with officers of the concerned State governments. Normally, funds are released to the States after their submission of UCs along-with State share & progress report.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare)
F.No.6-2/2020-B&A dt. 30th July., 2020]

Revenue Receipts

Recommendation No.4

The Committee note that the Department has earned an amount of Rs. 463.30 crore and Rs. 461.31 crore (upto January, 2020) as Revenue Receipts during the years 2018-19 and 2019-20 respectively. The Committee were also informed that they have set a target of Rs. 659.93 crore as Revenue Receipts for the year 2020-21. However, the Committee observe that despite having various Heads for receipt of revenue earned by the various Divisions and Institutions, the Department is not showing these in Detailed Demands for Grants as Recoveries in the Revenue Section. The Committee are of the view that including these Revenue Receipts in Demands submitted to Parliament will be very helpful in showing true picture of Government Finances. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to take necessary steps in consultation with Ministry of Finance for inclusion of Revenue Receipts being earned by their various Divisions and Institutions.

Reply of the Government

As per present procedure, Revenue Receipts are included in the Receipts Budget of Ministry of Finance and not in individual Demand for Grants of the Dep. The recommendation of the Committee has been considered in the Department and the matter is being taken up with Ministry of Finance.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare)
F.No.6-2/2020-B&A dt. 30th July., 2020]

Pradhan Mantri KisanMaanDhan Yojana

Recommendation No.8

The Committee note that Pradhan Mantri KisanMaanDhan Yojana Scheme is being implemented by the Department with a view to provide old age pension to Small and Marginal Farmers (SMF) as they have minimal or no savings to provide for old age and to support them in the event of consequent loss of livelihood. The Committee note that a minimum fixed pension of..Rs..3000/- p.m.

will be provided to the eligible small and marginal farmers on attaining the age of 60 years under this Scheme subject to certain exclusion clauses. Landholding is the basic criteria for the PM-KMY and hence only farmers holding cultivable land are eligible for the benefit under this Scheme. The Scheme aims to cover around 5 crore beneficiaries in the first three years. It would be a voluntary and Contributory Pension Scheme, with entry age of 18 to 40 years. The Committee have been informed that a total of 19,57,559 farmers have joined the Scheme as on 31.01.2020. The Committee view PMKMY as a Flagship Social Security Scheme catering to provide financial security to most deprived section of our society. This Scheme, if properly implemented, will help Small and Marginal Farmers which constitute majority farming community of our Country, to lead a dignified life in the twilight of their age. However, the Committee are not happy with very low level of enrolment under the Scheme till date. The Committee, therefore, recommend the Department to undertake a Special Drive for enhancing the enrolment under the Scheme and also spread wide publicity about the benefits of the Scheme by way of holding demonstrations at the ground level in the villages and through various other social mediums. The Committee also desire the Department to explore the possibility of including Landless Farmers under the Scheme.

Reply of the Government

The Pradhan Mantri KisanMaanDhan Yojana was launched on 12.9.2019 only. However, it is acknowledged that the response of the targeted beneficiaries has not so far been very enthusiastic, even though several awareness drives have been conducted in the matter. So far, as on 16.6.2020, only 2035937 farmers have registered themselves for the scheme. The following feedbacks have been received through the implementing agencies:

(i) Farmers are discouraged from joining the scheme due to the monthly contribution. In this regard, Haryana Government has been forthcoming in bearing the expenditure in this regard on behalf of their farmers. No other State Government has, however, followed the example of Haryana Government.

(ii) The upper age limit of 40 years is also discouraging the farmers from joining the scheme as traditionally their names in land records are entered at much later stage.

Government would consider appropriate improvements in the scheme without altering the basis features of the scheme. Accordingly, it is not in a position to open the scheme for tenant / landless farmers as this will be against the basic format of the scheme.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare)
F.No.6-2/2020-B&A dt. 30th July., 2020]

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana **Recommendation No.10**

The Committee note that Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana was launched in 2007-2008 to incentivize States to draw up Comprehensive Agriculture Development Plans, taking into account agro-climatic conditions, natural resources and technology for ensuring more inclusive and integrated development of Agriculture and Allied Sectors. The Scheme was implemented as a State Plan Scheme till the end of the financial year 2013-14 and is being implemented as a CSS (State Plan) Scheme thereafter. The Scheme has been revamped as the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana-Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied Sector Rejuvenation (RKVY-RAFTAAR) for implementation from 2017-18 with a major focus on pre & post-harvest infrastructure, besides promoting agri-entrepreneurship, innovations & value addition. The Committee further note that States are empowered to devise, sanction and implement the Projects under the Scheme as per their needs, priorities and availability of resources. The Committee observe that States were able to utilize an amount of Rs. 63433.6 crore as against availability of Rs. 74106.56 crore during the period of 2007-08 to 2019-20. However, the Committee observe that there was a significant reduction of funds to the tune of Rs. 985 crore under the Scheme at RE stage during 2019-20. The Committee were informed that some States are not able to submit Utilization Certificate due to delay in completion of Infrastructure projects being taken under the Scheme. The Committee are of view that RKVY is a popular Scheme due to flexibility provided to the States in taking projects suitable to their needs. There is need to examine the factors causing delay in submission of UCs by some States. Further, there is need to take a holistic view of situation being faced by these States so as to make sure that they are provided funds for their future Projects in the Agriculture Sector. The Committee, therefore, desire the Department to change the guidelines of scheme accordingly. The Committee also desire the Department to take up the matter with Ministry of Finance for allowing more time to States which are not able to furnish UCs due to valid reasons on case to case basis. The Committee recommends the Department to review the implementation of the Scheme more effectively.

Reply of the Government

The RKVY scheme guideline was revised last on 1.11.2017 for implementation up to 31.3.2020 with more focus on infrastructure development. Delay in submission of UCs on account of various reasons is a major concern as release of second & final installment of funds to the states under the scheme for implementation of projects approved by them is linked to submission of specific percentage UC for funds released to them in previous installment(s). By considering the fact that now the scheme focuses more on infrastructure development which takes normally more time to complete the projects, the present timeline for submission of UCs by the States for release of second/further installment under the scheme will be considered while revising the

scheme for its implementation from 2021-22. The scheme guidelines will be revised w.e.f. 01.04.2021 and the suggestion of the 14th Finance Commission will be kept in mind to ensure that the scheme remains more effective.

[Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare)
F.No.6-2/2020-B&A dt. 30th July., 2020]

NEW DELHI;
10 February, 2021
21 Magha, 1942 (Saka)

P.C. GADDIGOUDAR
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Agriculture.

Annexure-I

Disbursements Date From: 01/04/2019 To: 31/03/2020				Number of account in absolute and amount in Rs. lakh			
Sr.No	State/UT	Ground Level Credit to Agriculture (Provisional)					
		Crop Loan		Total Term Loan		Total Loans to Agriculture	
		No. of A/cs	Amt	No. of A/cs	Amt	No. of A/cs	Amt
1	DELHI	15463	75287.81	36506	2048197.27	51969	2123485.08
2	HARYANA	2872920	4305870.38	530178	2015166.48	3403098	6321036.86
3	HIMACHAL PRADESH	541148	565514.87	130937	205787.27	672085	771302.14
4	JAMMU and KASHMIR	876078	1092899.65	35864	247181.44	911942	1340081.09
5	PUNJAB	2819108	5564683.72	706789	2216554.06	3525897	7781237.78
6	RAJASTHAN	6660017	6553378.42	1656258	2577940.39	8316275	9131318.81
7	CHANDIGARH UT	3738	18133.56	39415	114813.84	43153	132947.40
	Northern Region	13788472	18175768.41	3135947	9425640.75	16924419	27601409.16
8	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	4525	2618.53	988	8029.21	5513	10647.74
9	ASSAM	384323	149034.31	674725	598040.52	1059048	747074.83
10	MANIPUR	4214	3298.54	19424	27129.08	23638	30427.62
11	MEGHALAYA	28188	14823.20	6174	5349.50	34362	20172.70
12	MIZORAM	1603	1276.75	13787	15648.09	15390	16924.84
13	NAGALAND	31668	10463.99	4632	17253.35	36300	27717.34
14	SIKKIM	6262	6905.41	7072	10004.42	13334	16909.83
15	TRIPURA	69460	20145.23	275754	256250.84	345214	276396.07
	North Eastern Region	530243	208565.96	1002556	937705.01	1532799	1146270.97
16	A and N ISLAND	2195	2623.62	9566	12234.10	11761	14857.72
17	BIHAR	2011752	1589472.98	2993779	2101386.27	5005531	3690859.25
18	JHARKHAND	483433	175834.25	557553	333946.11	1040986	509780.36
19	ODISHA	2865790	1224087.91	1448759	1146323.77	4314549	2370411.68
20	WEST BENGAL	2715280	1327955.31	3859989	3983527.11	6575269	5311482.42
	Eastern Region	8078450	4319974.07	8869646	7577417.36	16948096	11897391.43
21	CHHATTISGARH	1810153	967254.50	301743	512337.71	2111896	1479592.21
22	MADHYA PRADESH	6256497	4162664.78	1230042	1912232.55	7486539	6074897.33
23	UTTARAKHAND	451946	445715.96	143288	578027.06	595234	1023743.02
24	UTTAR PRADESH	8806462	7207212.70	2045207	3243773.90	10851669	10450986.60
	Central Region	17325058	12782847.94	3720280	6246371.22	21045338	19029219.16
25	GOA	24612	28624.99	37751	69621.99	62363	98246.98
26	GUJARAT	5410898	4372519.09	783770	2710247.21	6194668	7082766.30
27	MAHARASHTRA	3772248	3038381.99	1882238	4852043.44	5654486	7890425.43
28	D and N HAVELI UT	595	1115.89	1113	9603.87	1708	10719.76
29	DAMAN and DIU UT	665	1152.93	615	1140.75	1280	2293.68
	Western Region	9209018	7441794.89	2705487	7642657.26	11914505	15084452.15
30	ANDHRA PRADESH	11280330	9156682.44	2570162	4245765.57	13850492	13402448.01
31	TELANGANA	5055478	3241633.94	890097	2988954.29	5945575	6230588.23
32	KARNATAKA	5168755	4246183.18	4742821	4071454.52	9911576	8317637.70
33	KERALA	7090810	6127428.52	2263241	3451811.52	9354051	9579240.04
34	PUDUCHERRY	296402	237267.97	88300	87864.91	384702	325132.88
35	TAMILNADU	18651715	14587761.97	5599861	7634190.65	24251576	22221952.62
36	LAKSHADWEEP UT	229	139.69	428	341.29	657	480.98
	Southern Region	47543719	37597097.71	16154910	22480382.75	63698629	60077480.46
	Grand Total:	96474960	80526048.98	35588826	54310174.35	132063786	134836223.33

ANNEXURE-II**Area covered under Micro Irrigation under PMKSY-Per Drop More Crop**

Area in Ha

S. No.	State	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 (reported so far)	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	94104	141098	186441	200269	96026	717938
2	Bihar	5155	4228	3143	924	3966	17416
3	Chhattisgarh	8056	19227	13087	18929	27687	86986
4	Goa	92	123	236	0		451
5	Gujarat	142681	165948	143134	140778	107649	700190
6	Haryana	3117	5701	10751	10469	5856	35894
7	Himachal Pra.	3306	937	1197	422	1071	6933
8	Jharkhand	4528	5810	1544	3978	5988	21848
9	J&K	0	0	0	0		0
10	Karnataka	64220	139405	236107	234853	141103	815688
11	Kerala	561	310	358	965	424	2618
12	Madhya Pradesh	75224	54323	39761	35195	13203	217706
13	Maharashtra	35242	106172	132829	159959	95687	529889
14	Odisha	2907	4611	3036	10081	8498	29133
15	Punjab	1799	1950	600	507	937	5793
16	Rajasthan	56346	47650	48205	53982	46732	252915
17	Tamil Nadu	32288	44778	105695	172445	218275	573481
18	Telangana	39864	61980	89474	40381	2819	234518
19	Uttarakhand	721	3199	2182	4256.41	6696	17054
20	Uttar Pradesh	1598	32511	28235	55086	56953	174383
21	West Bengal	0	0	2137	13370	407	15914
22	Arun. Pradesh	0	0	0	0		0
23	Assam	0	0	782	70		852
24	Manipur	0	0	0	1600	1882	3482
25	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0		0
26	Mizoram	398	0	0	0	2348	2746
27	Nagaland	0	0	0	0		0
28	Sikkim	773	0	0	0		773
29	Tripura	0	0	0	0		0
	Grand Total	572980	839961	1048934	1158519	844207	4464601

Note: The total progress including progress in SC SP category.

Annexure-III

State-Wise Funds Released towards SCSP under SMAM during Last 3 Years and physical Progress

SMAM(2017-18)					2018-19				2019-20			
STATE	RELEASED	NOS. OF AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY DISTRIBUTED#	NOS. OF CUSTOM HIRING CENTRES ESTABLISHED	FARM MACHINERY BANKS ESTABLISHED AT VILLAGE LEVEL	RELEASED	NOS. OF AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY DISTRIBUTED#	NOS. OF CUSTOM HIRING CENTRES ESTABLISHED	FARM MACHINERY BANKS ESTABLISHED AT VILLAGE LEVEL	RELEASED	NOS. OF AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY DISTRIBUTED#	NOS. OF CUSTOM HIRING CENTRES ESTABLISHED	FARM MACHINERY BANKS ESTABLISHED AT VILLAGE LEVEL
	Rs. in Lakh	(In Numbers)			(Rs. in lakh)	(In numbers)			Rs. in lakh	(In numbers)		
Andhra Pradesh	1525.7	875	32	69	2700	22291	135	0	1800	3542	41	77
Arunachal		6	0	0		1	0	0		0	0	0
Assam	200	50	0	10		0	0	0		0	0	0
Bihar	0	0	0	0	575	0	0	0		0	0	0
Chhattisgarh	500	137	23	0	300	7321	103	7	300	869	40	0
Gujarat	64.82	0	0	0	80	0	0	0	100	256	0	0
Haryana	0	0	0	0	1046.82	752	92	18	625	500	0	56
HP	252.25	3	0	0	400	5	1	0	1637	2780	0	6
J&K	25	4	0	0	121.5	17	2	0	120	10	10	10
Jharkhand		34	0	6	40	100	0	13		0	0	0
Karnataka	1260	35	0		2201.68	100	0	0	2168	5535	11	0
Kerala	112.54	72	5	11	125	129	3	12	300	1360	1	3
MP	905.26	10	16	0	550	85	9	0	1120	4880	16	0
Maharashtra	946.02	63	0	0	2200	97	15	0	1500	1618	19	0
Manipur		5	0	0	1526	315	35	133		0	0	0
Meghalaya		0	0	0		0	0	0		0	0	0
Mizoram		30	0	0		27	0	0		0	0	0
Nagaland		30	2	3		42	0	0		0	0	0
Orissa	1092	400	164	12	1350	450	83	0	1000	1798	2	0
Punjab		166	7	24		0	0	0		0	0	0
Rajasthan		238	18	1	200	0	0	0		0	0	0
Sikkim	11	3	0	1		0	0	0	60	109	0	0
Tamil Nadu	1124.16	540	58	34	3675	1120	134	134	1680	2090	44	58
Telangana	170	30	6	0	120	0	0	0		0	0	0
Tripura	504.46	83	0	17	700	100	0	22	600	1471	0	17
UP	293.31	361	9	32	650	437	55	23	1500	5653	243	0
Uttarakhand	353.94	369	12	99	750	60	12	0	1282	1236	18	84
West Bengal	300	118	32	3	300	79	20	0	250	98	15	0
Total												

State wise details of funds released under the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan

Name of State	Released amount (Lakh Rs.)	
	2018-19	2019-20
Assam	34.50	0.00
Ar. Pradesh	6.75	0.00
Manipur	17.10	18.52
Meghalaya	1.75	1.50
Mizoram	0.00	0.35
Nagaland	0.00	0.00
Sikkim	17.25	17.94
Tripura	214.03	107.56
An. Pradesh	115.08	0.00
Bihar	78.23	0.00
Chhatishgarh	29.18	48.14
Gujarat	0.00	21.90
Him. Pradesh	0.00	75.60
Jharkhand	37.86	35.15
Karnataka	162.00	132.52
Kerala	56.84	0.000
Mad .Pradesh	324.42	170.50
Maharashtra	121.65	127.90
Orissa	64.47	17.10
Tamil Nadu	0.00	18.15
Telangana	54.94	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	0.00	56.41
Uttarakhand	123.68	55.08
GRAND TOTAL	1459.73	904.32

ANNEXURE-V**States wise fund released under SCSP, TSP from 2016-17 to 2019-20****(Rs. in lakh)**

S.no.	Name of States	2016-17		2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
		SCSP	TSP	SCSP	TSP	SCSP	TSP	SCSP	TSP
1	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.60	80.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
2	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.08	135.12	0.19	165.20
3	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	78.62	0.00	64.875	0.00	0.00
4	Andhra Pradesh	52.00	22.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Bihar	0.00	0.00	47.49	4.18	0.00	0.00	15.90	1.30
6	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	32.00	76.50	19.20	45.90	25.60	61.20
7	Gujarat	30.00	67.00	20.00	21.00	26.80	59.20	26.80	59.20
8	Haryana	35.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9	Himachal Pradesh	29.00	7.00	3.00	12.00	25.19	5.69	21.02	4.76
10	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	48.40	104.80	0.00	0.00	24.20	52.40
11	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	45.00	7.22	22.20	35.70	0.00	0.00
12	Karnataka	56.00	23.00	76.66	31.66	94.795	39.151	119.70	49.00
13	Kerala	0.00	0.00	18.79	3.085	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
14	Madhya Pradesh	66.00	89.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	47.50	37.50	23.60	18.80	8.85	7.05
16	Orissa	0.00	0.00	68.40	91.20	34.20	45.60	12.83	17.10
17	Punjab	64.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	113.49	0.00	0.00	0.00
18	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	106.80	81.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19	Tamil Nadu	50.00	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	46.10	2.54
20	Telangana	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.13	5.56	0.00	0.00
21	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	124.20	3.60	0.00	0.00	41.40	1.20
22	Grand Total	382.00	211.00	598.40	632.365	372.685	455.596	342.59	420.95

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

(2020-21)

MINUTES OF THE FIFTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE

The Committee sat on Tuesday, the 09th February, 2021 from 1430 hrs. to 1510 hrs. in the Committee Room '3', Block-A, Extn to PHA Building New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Parvatagouda Chandanagouda Gaddigoudar– Chairperson

MEMBERS

LOK SABHA

2. Shri Afzal Ansari
3. Shri Horen Sing Bey
4. Shri Devendra Singh 'Bhole'
5. Shri A. Ganeshamurthi
6. Shri Kanakmal Katara
7. Shri Bhagwanth Khuba
8. Shri Mohan Mandavi
9. Shri Devji Mansingram Patel
10. Smt. Shardaben Anilbhai Patel
11. Shri Shrinivas Dadasaheb Patil
12. Shri Pocha Brahmananda Reddy
13. Shri Virendra Singh
14. Shri Ram Kripal Yadav

RAJYA SABHA

15. Shri Partap Singh Bajwa
16. Shri Narayan Rane
17. Shri Kailash Soni
18. Shri B.L. Verma
19. Smt. Chhaya Verma

SECRETARIAT

- | | | | |
|----|----------------------|---|------------------|
| 1. | Shri Shiv Kumar | – | Joint Secretary |
| 2. | Dr. Vatsala J. Pande | – | Director |
| 3. | Smt. Juby Amar | – | Director |
| 4. | Shri Prem Ranjan | – | Deputy Secretary |

2. At the outset, Chairperson welcomed the Members to the Sitting of the Committee. Thereafter, the Committee took up for consideration the followings Reports:

*(i) XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

*(ii) XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

*(iii) XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

*(iv) XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

*(v) XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

(vi) Draft Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations on Ninth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2019-20) on 'Demands for Grants (2020-21)' of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare);

*(vii) XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

*(viii) XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

*(ix) XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

*(x) XXXX XXXX XXXX XXXX

3. After some deliberations, the Committee adopted the Draft Reports without any modifications and the Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalize and present these Reports to Parliament.

The Committee then adjourned.

*Matter not related to this Report

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON
THE NINTH REPORT (17th LOK SABHA) OF
STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (2019-20)
(Vide Para 4 of Introduction of the Report)

(i)	Total number of Recommendations	17
(ii)	Recommendations/Observations which have been Accepted by the Government Para Nos. 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17	
	Total	10
	Percentage	58.82%
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee Do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies Para No. 7 and 16	
	Total	02
	Percentage	11.76%
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee Para Nos. 11	
	Total	01
	Percentage	05.88%
(v)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Final replies of the Government are still awaited Para Nos. 3,4,8 and 10	
	Total	04
	Percentage	23.52%